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MEMORIALS TO CONGRESS,

RESPECTING

Sabbath Mails.

This Pamphlet may be had at the Bookstores of JONATHAN LEAVITT, 182, Broadway, and JOHN P. HAVEN, 142, Nassau Street, New York.

AN ACCOUNT
OF
MEMORIALS
PRESENTED TO CONGRESS
During its last Session,
BY NUMEROUS FRIENDS OF THEIR COUNTRY
AND ITS INSTITUTIONS ;
PRAYING THAT
THE MAILS MAY NOT BE TRANSPORTED,
NOR POST-OFFICES KEPT OPEN,
ON THE SABBATH.

New York :
PUBLISHED AT THE REQUEST OF MANY PETITIONERS.
.....
May, 1829.

H 5308.29

~~Nov~~ 3785.10



Lucy Agood fund

IMPORTANCE OF THE SABBATH.

EVER since the mail was first transported in the United States on the Sabbath, this violation of the day of rest has been a source of grief and pain to many individuals, who are justly ranked among the most intelligent, useful, and virtuous of our citizens. To the certain knowledge of the compiler of these pages, much regret has been expressed, by persons residing in many parts of the Union, that a practice so pernicious in its tendency and consequences, should have been sanctioned by any department of our national government.

Post-offices, in our large towns, were gradually opened, one after another, for a *part of the Sabbath*; and in 1810, a section was inserted, in the law regulating the post-office, by which post-masters were obliged to deliver letters at all reasonable hours, *on every day of the week*. This law attracted very little attention at the time; and it is supposed, that the section alluded to was scarcely considered at all, except by the Committee that introduced it. A member of congress recently declared it to be very strange, that such a provision should have crept into the law; for it was clearly a repeal of the *Fourth Commandment*. Most certainly this is the fact, unless it can be shown, that to keep the post-office open in every city, town, and village of our land, on every Sabbath of the year, and in a time of the profoundest peace, is *a work of necessity and mercy*; a proposition not very likely to be established, when the post-office in London, the most populous, the most busy, and the most commercial city in the world, is closed, *during the whole of every Sabbath*. Indeed, it is absurd to speak of the business of the mails and the post-office, as being *a work of necessity at all times*, when the custom-house, the public offices at the seat of government, and all the courts of justice, are uniformly closed one day in seven; and when great numbers of our most active and enterprising men of business never receive their letters on the Sabbath, and yet conduct their affairs with as much skill, prudence, and success as others.

The keeping open of post-offices, on the day of sacred rest, has been to many hearts a still greater grief and burden, than the transportation of the mail on that day. In many towns, both large and small, the post office is so located, as to attract crowds of idlers, who do not pretend to any plea of necessity. The young, if they have not pious parents or guardians, are led, by this public and authorized show of

business to disregard the Sabbath, and to withdraw themselves from public worship. All these consequences were foreseen at once, by those who are accustomed to regard moral causes and their effects.

Soon after the close of the last war, numerous petitions were presented from inhabitants of different parts of the United States, (on the Atlantic coast and beyond the Alleghany mountains,) asking for a removal of these evils, which they had observed to be increasing. The attention of congress was in some degree arrested, and a respectful report was made by the post-master general; but a regard to what was supposed to be the public accommodation and convenience prevented any legislative interposition.

From that time to the present, the multiplied evils of Sabbath-breaking have become more and more apparent; and the apprehension has been extensively felt, that an irresistible flood of business and pleasure will roll over the sacred institutions of religion, and leave our beloved land a moral desolation. Hence it has been a subject of conversation for years, in many a circle of reflecting and patriotic men, and in many states of the Union, if not in every state, that the friends of the Sabbath should come forward, and plead its claims before the national legislature. It has been said, from year to year, that doubtless many petitions would be offered, if the work of petitioning were once seriously commenced. But the matter was delayed for reasons, which, though not satisfactory, are very apt to have influence; such as, "It is not *our* duty, in this city, or town, to begin;" or, "We have petitioned already, and it has done no good;" or, "If our rulers have not a just sense of the importance of the Sabbath, petitioning will avail nothing; and when they shall *have* just views on the subject, they will not need to be petitioned." It has, however, been the steady intention of numerous individuals, to unite with their fellow-citizens in forwarding petitions, whenever a commencement should be made.

It was with the highest gratification, therefore, that the friends of religion, in different parts of the land, were informed, that a most respectable committee, composed of gentlemen of different religious denominations, had been constituted in the largest of our commercial cities, and had sent forth an invitation to their countrymen to join in the petition, which was soon to be presented. This was early in December last; and, before the close of that month, many petitions had been forwarded, and some were before the post-office committee of each house of congress. Others continued to arrive till the last weeks of the session; and, in the whole, *four hundred and forty one* distinct petitions were presented to the House of Representatives, and *twenty six** to the Senate. These were severally referred to the post-office committees.

After these introductory paragraphs, it is proposed to lay before the public a *list of places*, from which memorials were received, *extracts* from the petitions, *selected names* of petitioners, and a few *concluding observations*.

* This number does not include a few duplicates sent to the Senate, having the same signatures as were sent to the other house. The whole number of petitions presented to both houses is 467.

LIST OF PLACES,

From which memorials were received against the transportation of the mail, and the keeping open of post-offices on the Sabbath.

The petitions which were presented to the Senate, are indicated by the letters (Sen.)

Petitions from the State of MAINE; viz. From inhabitants of the towns of

Albany,	Cornville,	North Yarmouth,	Warren,
Albion,	Eastport,	Orono,	Washington,
Andover,	Farmington,	Orrington,	Waterville,
Augusta,	Fayette,	Paris,	Wayne,
Bangor,	Freedom,	PORTLAND,	Wells,
Bath,	Gray,	Readfield,	West Machias,
Bluehill, (2 petitions.)	Hallowell,	Robbinston,	Winthrop,
Bucksport,	Houlton,	Steuben,	Winslow,
Chesterfield,	Kittery,	Temple, (2 petitions.)	York.
Clinton,	Limerick,	Vassalboro', (2 pet.)	

From inhabitants of the Counties of Penobscot, (2 petitions.) and York.

From inhabitants of the State, without a more particular designation, (one petition.)

Petitions from the State of NEW HAMPSHIRE; viz. From inhabitants of the towns of

Andover, (Senate.)	Gilmanton,	New Chester,	Rochester,
Boscawen	Hampton, (Sen.)	North Hampton,	Salisbury, (Sen.)
Chesterfield, (Sen.)	Hillsborough,	North Haverhill,	Sanbornton, (Sen.)
Dunbarton,	Hopkinton,	Pelham,	Wilmot.
Franklin,	Lempster,	Rindge,	

From inhabitants of the State, without a more particular designation, (one petition.)

Petitions from the State of VERMONT; viz. From inhabitants of the towns of

Barton,	Charlotte,	Passumpsic,	West Rutland,
Brandon,	Kellyvale,	Pittsford,	Williston.
Brookfield,	Manchester,	Rockingham,	
BURLINGTON,	Middlebury,	Rutland,	

From inhabitants of the County of Washington,

From inhabitants of the State, without a more particular designation, (one petition.)

Petitions from the State of MASSACHUSETTS; viz. From the towns of

Acton,	Chester,	Lincoln,	Randolph,
Amherst,	Chickapee,	Longmeadow,	Richmond,
Andover,	Colerain,	Lynn, (2 petitions.)	SALEM,
Do. West Parish,	Conway,	Medford,	Sandwich,
Ashby,	Egremont,	Middleborough,	Sheffield,
Ashfield,	Fitchburg,	Middlefield,	South Reading,
Barre,	Granby, (2 petitions.)	Millbury,	Springfield,
Belchertown,	Great Barrington,	New Braintree,	Stockbridge,
Beverly,	Hadley,	New Rowley,	Sturbridge,
Blandford,	Hanover,	NEWBURYPORT,	Topsfield,
Bloody-brook,	Hardwick,	Newton, (Senate.)	Ware,
BOSTON, (2 pet.)	Hawley,	Northampton,	Wenham, (Senate.)
Bradford,	Hinsdale,	North Brookfield,	Westminster,
Do. West Parish,	Kingston,	Peru,	West Springfield,
Brighton,	Lee,	Pittsfield,	West Stockbridge,
Cambridge,	Lenox,	Plainfield,	Williamstown.

Petitions from the State of CONNECTICUT; viz. From the towns of

Bozrahville,	Griswold,	New London,	Tolland, (Sen.)
Canton,	HARTFORD,	Norfolk,	Torrington,
Chester,	Lisbon,	Northington, (Sen.)	West Hartford,
Colchester,	Meriden, (Sen.)	NORWICH,	Wethersfield,
Coventry, South Par.	Middlebury,	Poquetanuck,	Winchester,
Do. N. Par. (Sen.)	Middletown,	Rocky Hill,	Windsor,
Derby,	NEW HAVEN,	Sharon,	Wolcott, (Sen.)
Farmington,			

From inhabitants of the Counties of Fairfield, and Middlesex, (two petitions.)

Petitions from the State of NEW YORK ; viz. From the cities and towns of

Adams,	Canajoharie and	Livingston, (2 pet.)	Sackett's Harbor,
ALBANY,	Palatine,	Lockport, (2 pet.)	Salem,
Albion,	Champion,	Lyons,	Schenectady,
Alden and Clarence,	Chester,	Mamakating and	Smithfield & Fenner,
Alexander,	Clarkson,	Walkill, (in	Smithtown, L. I.
Amsterdam,	Colesville,	the Counties of	Sodus,
Antwerp,	Durham,	Orange and Sul-	Stafford,
Aradria,	Elbridge,	livan,)	Stillwater,
Augusta,	Erieville,	Manheim,	Sweden,
Aurelius,	Franklin,	Mead's Creek,	Syracuse,
Aurora,	Fowlersville,	Mendon,	Tappan,
Bainbridge,	Gaines,	Murray,	Tompkins,
Bath,	Galway,	New Rochelle,	Trenton,
Bedford,	Greece,	NEW YORK CITY, TROY,	Victor,
Benton,	Granville, (2 pet.)	Niagara,	Virgil,
Bergen,	Gouverneur,	Ogden,	Waterford,
Bethlehem,	Hartland,	Palatine,	Watertown,
Bloomfield,	Hornellsville,	Parma,	Western & Kirkland,
Bridgehampton,	Ithaca,	Pittsford,	Westmoreland,
Brighton,	Jackson,	Potsdam,	Wheatland,
Brooklyn,	Jamaica,	Prattsburgh,	Williamson,
Byron,	Johnstown,	Reading and Colton,	Ulysses,
Caledonia,	Lansingburgh,	Riga,	Youngstown,
Cambria,	Le Roy,	ROCHESTER,	
Camden,	Leyden,	Royalton,	
	Lima,	Sanford,	

From inhabitants of the Counties of Greene, Rensselaer, St. Lawrence, Schenectady and Montgomery, Schoharie, Tompkins.

Petitions from the State of NEW JERSEY ; viz. From the towns of

Belleville,	Hopewell,	Perth Amboy,	Rahway and
Burlington,	Mendham,	Pittsgrove,	Woodbridge,
Chester,	NEWARK,	Plainfield,	Salem,
Cumberland,	New Brunswick,	Princeton,	Trenton.
ELIZABETHTOWN,			

Petitions from the State of PENNSYLVANIA ; viz. From the cities and towns of

Agnew's Mills,	Greensburg, (Bea-	PHILADELPHIA,	Springfield,
Columbia and vi-	ver County,)	Pottstown,	Strasburg, (Lancas-
city,	HARRISBURGH,	Shippensburg & vic.	ter County,)
Frankfort,	Montgomery,	Southwark,	Wyalusing,

From inhabitants of the Counties of

Adams,	Cumberland,	LANCASTER,	Somerset,
Alleghany, (Sen.)	Do. and Perry,	Luzerne,	Venango and
Bedford,	Dauphin,	Mercer, (Sen.)	Butler, (Sen.)
Bradford,	Franklin,	Northampton,	Washington,
Chester, (Sen.)	Huntingdon,	Northumberland, (2 pt.)	Westmoreland,
Do. H. R.			

From inhabitants of the State without a more particular designation, (four petitions.)

Petitions from the State of DELAWARE ; viz. From the towns of Lewis, Smyrna and vicinity.

Petitions from the State of MARYLAND ; viz. From the city of BALTIMORE.

From the towns of Boonsboro', Greensboro', and Kent Island.

From inhabitants of the Counties of Ann Arundel, and Washington.

From the District of COLUMBIA ; viz. From inhabitants of the city of ALEXANDRIA.

Petitions from the State of VIRGINIA ; viz. From the towns of Fairfield, FREDERICKSBURG, French Creek, Greenville, Middleburg, Outerbridge, Petersburg.

From inhabitants of the Counties of

Accomac, (2 pet.)	Bedford,	Fluvanna,	Hanover, (2 pet.)
Albemarle,	Brooke,	Goochland,	Herrico,
Augusta,	Essex,	Greenbrier, (2 pet.)	King George,

King William, Nelson, PRINCE EDWARD, Spotsylvania,
 Montgomery, Orange, Rockbridge, Westmoreland.
 Morgan, Orange and Louisa,

From inhabitants of the State without a more particular designation, (two petitions.)

Petitions from the State of NORTH CAROLINA; viz. From Tirzah, and Wake Forest.

From inhabitants of the Counties of Cabarrus, Caswell, Mecklenburgh, Nash, Rockingham, and Rowan.

Petitions from the State of SOUTH CAROLINA; viz. from inhabitants of Blairsville, Camden, (Sen.) CHARLESTON, Columbia, and Winnsboro'.

From inhabitants of the Districts of Chester, and Spartansburg.

Petitions from the State of GEORGIA; viz. From inhabitants of the city of AUGUSTA.

From inhabitants of the Counties of Columbia, and Telfair, (two petitions.)

Petitions from the State of ALABAMA; viz. From inhabitants of the County of Washington.

Petitions from the State of TENNESSEE; viz. From inhabitants of Hillsborough.

From inhabitants of the Counties of Anderson, Bedford, Greene, Knox, Roane, Rutherford, Smith, Sullivan, Warren, and Washington.

From inhabitants of the State, without a more particular designation, (one petition.)

Petitions from the State of KENTUCKY; viz. From inhabitants of the towns of Danville, Elkton, Millersburgh, Richmond, and Springfield, (Sen.)

From inhabitants of the Counties of Callaway, Fayette and adjacent counties, (three petitions) (Sen.) Garrard, (2 petitions), Greene, and Washington.

Petition from the State of ILLINOIS; viz. From inhabitants of Fulton County.

Petitions from the State of OHIO; viz. From inhabitants of the towns of

Andover,	Coshocton,	Norwich,	Tallmadge,
Athens,	Edinburgh,	Oxford,	Warren,
Atwater,	Farmington,	Perry,	Washington,
Austinburgh,	Gustavus,	Randolph,	Waterford,
Bainbridge,	Hudson,	St. Clairsville, (Sen.)	Wayne,
Bath,	Miamisburgh,	Springfield,	ZANESVILLE.

CINCINNATI,
 From inhabitants of the Counties of Ashtabula, Brown, (Sen.) Butler, Columbiana (and Beaver, Pa.) Delaware, Greene, (Sen.) Hamilton, Licking, Portage, Scioto.

From inhabitants of the State, without a more particular designation, (four petitions.)

From the Territory of MICHIGAN; viz. From inhabitants of DETROIT.

EXTRACTS FROM PETITIONS.

The right of petitioning and the reasons for it.

We, as a part of the members of our great Republic, would exercise a privilege, to us most dear, of petitioning the immediate agents of the people for the redress of any grievance, or the removal of any hardship, that may be endured, or suffered, by any of us.

Now as a people knowing and regarding our natural duties, and, at the same time, feeling and exercising towards the officers of our government that submission and deference, which become a dutiful though magnanimous and free people,—we would petition the constituted authorities of our nation, for a remedy commensurate with the inconvenience, of which we speak.

Petition of Inhabitants of Callaway County, Kentucky.

As the invasion of the Sabbath is a grievance to professing Christians,* who make a very respectable portion of the community you have the honor to represent,

*That is, communicants in regular Christian churches.

we hope that their views and feelings will be consulted, so far as they do not interfere with the privileges and immunities of others. Such Christians, if they are sincere, are the best of your citizens. They pay a punctilious regard to human and divine law. We hope the voice of complaint, coming from such a respectable quarter, will be heard.

Petition of Inhabitants of Winstanboro', Fairfield District, South Carolina.

This request is dictated by no sectarian views, nor by any disposition to interfere with the official business of your honorable body, but from the purest motives of patriotism, and a solicitude to transmit unimpaired to our children, and our children's children, those immunities, both civil and sacred, with which the God of nations has exalted us above any other people on the globe.

Petition of Inhabitants of Salem, Washington county, New-York.

As true Americans, disclaiming all party feelings, and party interest of any temporal kind, we hold, as inviolable, the right of every citizen to worship God, according to the dictates of his own conscience; and the privilege we take to ourselves, we freely extend to all our fellow citizens.

Your petitioners have observed with deep regret, that the more we are prospered as a nation, under the smiles of a benign Providence, the more are the precepts of our Lord and Saviour, and the authority of the God of our fathers, openly violated; until, as we have every reason to fear, from the pinnacle of prosperity and glory, to which the God of Heaven hath exalted our beloved country, we shall, by our public and national sins, be precipitated to the abyss of irreligion and ruin.

Petition of Inhabitants of Le Roy, New-York.

The Relief desired.

Your memorialists do therefore respectfully petition for the enactment of a law, by which *the transportation of the mail, and the delivery of letters, &c.* on the first day of the week, shall be prohibited.

Petition of Inhabitants of Philadelphia. The same form of a petition was signed by Inhabitants of the State of Delaware, and of other parts of the country.

The undersigned do earnestly solicit your honorable body to devise such measures, that *the transportation of the mail, and the opening thereof, and the delivery of letters, may no longer be required on the Sabbath.*

Petition of Inhabitants of Columbia county, Georgia.

Believing with, (as we think,) a majority of our fellow citizens throughout the United States, that the carrying the mail on the Sabbath, especially in time of peace, is a violation of that holy day, we therefore do humbly pray, that your honorable body, if in your wisdom you think proper, would pass an act prohibiting *the transportation of the mail, and the keeping of post offices open, on that day.*

Petition of Inhabitants of Mecklenburgh county, North Carolina.

The undersigned do view the practice of the post-office establishment, relating to the conveyance of the mails on the Sabbath, as a grievance, which we think to be contrary to the laws of Sacred Writ, as well as contrary to the intent and meaning of the laws of the United States: We therefore solicit most humbly of the honorable Congress *a redress of the aforesaid grievance.*

Petition of Inhabitants of Rockingham county, North Carolina.

We do not ask you to put a stop to the iniquities prevailing in private life; but to reform those *national evils*, that are in opposition to the best interests of our country, the law of a holy and merciful God, to the rights of religious men, and even to the rights of the brute creation.

Petition of Inhabitants of Greensburgh, Beaver county, Pennsylvania.

Some of the state sovereignties have, in vain, attempted to enforce the observance of the Sabbath, in the particulars aforesaid. It is therefore *to the national legislature*, that the appeal must be made.

Petition of Inhabitants of St. Lawrence county, New-York.

The subscribers, believing that the transportation of the mail and the opening of the post-office on Sunday are unfavorable to such an observance of this day, as becomes a Christian community, respectfully solicit Congress to abolish these practices.

This application, we trust, will not be misunderstood. We do not ask Congress to enforce any season, or form, of public worship. We should deprecate, as among the greatest evils, any legislation intended to favor the views of a sect, or to establish a particular faith. We only pray, that Congress may not *counteract by its measures*, those institutions, which are cherished by the community, as the means of public and private virtue.

Petition of WILLIAM E. CHANNING, and others, Inhabitants of the city of Boston.

Your memorialists would therefore respectfully ask that Post Offices throughout the United States *may be closed on the Sabbath*, and that such provisions may be made by law, as will require all contracts for *the transportation of the mail* to be confined to the six secular days of the week.

Petition of Inhabitants of the city of Boston. This form of a petition was signed by numerous petitioners in many parts of the country.

The undersigned memorialists beg leave respectfully to present our petition and earnest prayer to both Houses of Congress, that the *transportation and opening of the mail, and delivery of letters*, and any other business relating to that office, may no longer be required on the Holy Sabbath.

Petition of Inhabitants of Gustavus, Trumbull county, Ohio.

Great Interests at stake.

Believing, as we do, that the Christian religion and the Christian Sabbath will *rise and fall together*, your petitioners have long viewed, with increasing regret, the transportation and opening of the United States' mail on the Sabbath.

Petition of Inhabitants of Charlotte, Vermont.

Your memorialists must confess, that they have a personal interest in the subject, to which they are soliciting the attention of Congress. They not only wish to preserve their families and friends from the contagion of a bad example, and of an allowed, customary disregard and contempt of an invaluable institution; but they are also persuaded that for national deviations from right, emanating from the government, a present *national retribution* is to be apprehended, inasmuch as the future reckoning is for individuals, and not for states; and such public retributory judgment *must fall upon the people*, and must be borne by your memorialists, in common with others.

Petition of Inhabitants of Albion, Maine.

The Sabbath a Divine Institution.

Your memorialists consider the Sabbath to be **A DIVINE INSTITUTION**, its obligation resting on *the laws of God*, and its observance most conducive to national happiness.

Petition of Inhabitants of Philadelphia.

Your memorialists consider the practice of transporting and opening the mails on the Sabbath contrary to the **FOURTH COMMAND IN THE DECALOGUE**; and that the continuance and increase of our happiness depend on our obedience to *the laws of God*.

Petition of Inhabitants of Rowan county, North Carolina.

The transporting of the mail on the Sabbath is an evil which might be avoided, and which is repugnant to the *express command of heaven*.

Petition of Inhabitants of Ann Arundel county, Maryland.

The practice of opening the post-offices of the United States, on the Sabbath day, is, in the opinion of your memorialists, *a violation of the divine commandment*, injurious in its effects on the public morals, and unsupported by any plea of public necessity, or convenience; while it gives just offence to the principles and feelings of the Christian community.

Petition of Inhabitants of Trenton, New-Jersey.

Your memorialists would state their full conviction, that these laws are in direct violation of the *laws of the GREAT GOD* whose authority, as paramount to all other, we presume every member of your honorable bodies will acknowledge; and that they are calculated to bring his frown upon us, as a nation.

Petition of Inhabitants of Elizabethtown, New-Jersey.

The high authority, by which the rest of the Sabbath is enacted; its great utility to the interests of religion and morality; together with the salutary effects, which

the Sabbath creates, by requiring that one day in seven be observed as a day of rest from the cares and toils of life; are some of the reasons, why, in our estimation, no encouragement should be given, at least by legal enactments, to the violation of this *divine and important precept*.

Petition of Inhabitants of Chester District, South Carolina.

We urge the repeal of the present law, as it is an *invasion of the law of God*. Good citizenship, we think, requires us to keep a conscience not only 'void of offence towards men, but void of offence towards God.' As we are a Christian nation, and exult in the honorable distinction, we wish to show our regard for divine laws, and for sacred institutions, by keeping the Sabbath holy.

Petition of Inhabitants of Winnsboro', Fairfield District, South Carolina.

While the arm of Jehovah is lifted for our defence, no enemy can subdue us, or impair our rights. But if the supreme legislature of this Union, by their act, makes it necessary to violate the *COMMAND OF GOD*, his justice will demand that adequate punishment be inflicted on our common country. His own law He will magnify and make honorable, by inflicting the sanction, or honoring those who honor it.

Petition of Inhabitants of Spartansburg District, South Carolina.

The transportation of the mail is an unnecessary evil, attended with serious consequences, and a reproach to the nation; that it is a direct violation of the *command of Jehovah to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy*; that it disturbs the quiet enjoyment of that day, in requiring post-offices to be opened, and the mail to be conveyed through cities, towns and villages, in the hours of public worship, and thus inducing every other evil connected with Sabbath-breaking, a sin, which has ever received the signal displeasure of the Supreme Ruler of the Universe.

Petition of Inhabitants of Lempster, New-Hampshire.

We do humbly appeal to your honorable body, that a free, enlightened, and religious people, may rest from all their labors, as the Lord of the Sabbath *HATH COMMANDED*.

Petition of Inhabitants of North Haverhill, New-Hampshire.

Our opinion is based, not only upon the firm belief, that God *claims that day* for his service, but on a firm belief that every nation, which generally profanes that holy day by neglecting to keep it, does bring upon itself heavy judgments.

Petition of Inhabitants of Rockbridge county, Virginia.

Being fully convinced, that the blessing of God will be conferred on that nation, which obeys his laws, and that punishment will be inflicted on the disobedient, have, with much concern, seen in the post-office department, that the Sabbath, a day which God *HATH COMMANDED TO BE KEPT HOLY*, is broken and profaned.

Petition of Inhabitants of Hanover county, Virginia.

We view with deep regret the public violation of the Sabbath, in transporting and opening the mail on that day. We regard the *command to keep the Sabbath holy* binding upon nations, as well as individuals. We are dependent on divine providence as a nation, and cannot expect the blessing of God, while we act in opposition to his requirements.

Petition of Inhabitants of Westmoreland county, Virginia.

Righteousness exalteth a nation and sin is a reproach to any people, is a declaration of the wisest and most prosperous king, who ever swayed a sceptre on earth:

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy, is a command of the King of kings, which is binding upon all mankind:

Whereas the transportation and opening of the mail on the Sabbath is productive of much evil throughout our country; and as many of our citizens are required, in the discharge of their offices, to violate the Sabbath; Therefore, &c.

Petition of Inhabitants of Ashtabula county, Ohio.

We believe the existing law, regulating the transportation and opening of mails on the first day of the week, is a *direct violation of the law of the Sabbath*, ordained by the lawgiver of the Universe; and we believe the tendency to demoralize our great community, and prepare our beloved country for the desolating judgments of Heaven, to be alarming.

Petition of Inhabitants of Gustavus, Trumbull county, Ohio.

Believing that the Sabbath day has been appropriated by *divine authority* to the worship of Almighty God, your petitioners, having long and deeply regretted the interruption of its sacred duties, occasioned by the transportation and opening of the mails, earnestly pray you, as guardians of the morals, as well as of the rights and privileges of the people, to take this matter into consideration.

Petition of Inhabitants of Athens, Ohio.

Your memorialists beg leave respectfully to represent, that, regarding the institution of a weekly day of rest as coeval with the creation of the world, when God rested from his great work of giving form to the earth, and *sanctified the Sabbath-day*;—and being assured, that the institution has been in all Christian countries recognized, and deemed subservient to both the temporal and spiritual interests of mankind;—they have witnessed with great regret, the open and increasing violation of the Lord's day, by the transmission of the mails, under the direction, or by the authority, of the government of the United States.

Petition of Inhabitants of Albion, Maine.

The law, in regard to the Sabbath, ought to be observed, as we conceive, by every people *calling themselves Christian*.

Petition of Inhabitants of Bedford county, Pennsylvania.

Whereas the Sabbath is appointed to man and beast as a day of rest, a strict observance of which is enjoined in the SACRED DECALOGUE:—

Your petitioners are fully persuaded, that the transportation and opening of the mail, and the delivery of letters, on that day, is a violation of the *FOURTH COMMAND*, and attended with much evil, not only by detaining many from a regular attendance on public worship, but by disturbing those, who are assembled for that purpose.

Petition of Inhabitants of Winchester, Connecticut.

The undersigned would respectfully represent, that it is with the deepest concern we regard the regulations of the post-office department, respecting the transportation and opening of the mail on the Sabbath. Having been taught by our pious ancestors, and by the word of God, to regard that day as holy time, and to esteem it a blessing, and not a burden to any people, we do verily believe that the high privileges, both civil and religious, which so conspicuously distinguish our nation, are intimately connected, as well in their continuance as their origin, with a sacred regard to *that divine institution*. With these views, we cannot restrain the belief, that a practical abolition of the Sabbath would operate as the most deadly treachery, that can be perpetrated; and consequently we view with serious alarm every measure, however harmlessly designed, which has a tendency to such abolition.

Petition of Inhabitants of Norfolk, Connecticut.

He who appointed the Sabbath has *commanded* that it be kept holy; and we, who believe that his command is obligatory upon all mankind, view with regret what may be considered a profanation of the day under authority of law.

Petition of Inhabitants of New-London, Connecticut.

The memorialists do not think it will be expected of them to reply at length to the arguments used in defence of transporting and opening mails on the Sabbath, and the delivery of letters and newspapers at post-offices, as the honorable bodies addressed will at once perceive, that an entire suspension of secular business on that day would operate impartially on the whole community; that experience demonstrates that the rest of one day in seven conduces alike to a vigorous prosecution of business and to a healthy moral tone; and that the whole array of arguments in favor of breaking the Sabbath is answered by the solemn truth, that the violations of this holy day are *contrary to the laws of God*, and detrimental to the physical, civil, and moral good of the people.

Petition of Inhabitants of the city of New-York. This form of a petition was signed by great numbers of petitioners in many parts of the Union.

Believing, as your petitioners do, that the practice above-mentioned is a direct *infringement of the divine law*; that its existence is inconsistent with the character and a reproach to the name of a Christian people; that its tendency is to subvert the institutions of religion, by lessening that respect for them, which ought ever to be felt and inculcated; that it exerts a pernicious and demoralizing influence upon the community at large, by encouraging, and, in effect, inviting their attention to sec-

ular concerns, on the Sabbath, to the neglect, and even the exclusion, of the appropriate duties of the day; that, as an open violation of an express command of the SUPREME LAWGIVER, it must be offensive in his sight, and may lead to such a general depravation of manners, as to cause him to withdraw from us that abounding goodness and favor, which he has hitherto vouchsafed to us as a nation; and that, from all these considerations, it calls loudly for correction and redress;—they repeat their most earnest and respectful request, &c.

Petition of Inhabitants of Salem, Massachusetts. This form of a petition was signed by Inhabitants of several other towns.

But, more than all, by these means an *explicit command of God* is violated, and the authority of the Lawgiver set at nought, and his righteous displeasure incurred, not against the individuals only, who are the immediate transgressors, but also against the community and the government, which authorizes, or suffers such wickedness.

Petition of Inhabitants of Newburyport, Massachusetts.

Supposed convenience does not abrogate a law of God.

It may be said, perhaps, that *public convenience* requires the rapid transmission of the mails. This might possibly be a valid excuse, if any great, or momentous, interests were at stake, as in case of war or public danger. Our Saviour said, *It is lawful to do good on the Sabbath day*; but, in the instances by which he illustrated his instructions, it is manifest that he contemplated, (as it is in other places also explained,) *works of necessity and mercy*. It was not intended, that the precept in the decalogue should yield to afford *commercial facilities*. The commandment is, that in SIX DAYS thou shalt do ALL thy work.

Petition of Inhabitants of Washington county, Pennsylvania.

The people of the United States do not wish to lose the good influences of the Sabbath.

With a few unworthy exceptions, were the question for the observance of the Sabbath put to the citizens of the United States, it would be *unanimously carried in the affirmative*. Why then should this public evil of which we complain, which tends to destroy the observance of the Sabbath, and to disturb those who do observe it, be supported by government?

Petition of Inhabitants of Rensselaer county, New-York.

The toleration, or rather establishment, by the law of the land, of this "work and labor" on the Sabbath, has long been deplored by a *vast majority*, it is believed, of the Christian community.

Petition of Inhabitants of St. Lawrence county, New-York.

We believe the good sense of a *vast majority of this nation* desires a suspension of labor on the Sabbath; and as the other offices of government are closed on the Sabbath, we see no reason why the post-office should not likewise be closed.

Petition of Inhabitants of Stockbridge, Sheffield, and other towns in Berkshire county, Massachusetts.

As a people, the inhabitants of the United States, if they were all to speak their minds, would demand the preservation of the Sabbath. They have the deepest interest in demanding it; for if all the restraints of religion were removed, our national prosperity and our political freedom would soon depart, to return no more. But what could not be done directly, and at once, may be done gradually, and too effectually, if the Sabbath should be secularized.

Petition of Inhabitants of the city of Boston.

The Sabbath recognized by all the public bodies in our country, by every department of government except the post-office, and by the State Laws.

That the recognition of the Sabbath, in all the institutions of the country, as is shown in the usages of congress and of our courts of justice, in the execution of the laws, &c. and the peculiar sanction with which it is guarded by our *state laws*, induce your memorialists to hope that the exception to the general observance of a day of rest,

which is found in the post-office department, and which is but of recent practice, will receive the attention of congress.

Petition of Inhabitants of Philadelphia.

We rejoice that the sacred institutions of religion are so generally respected by the laws of our highly favored country; yet we regret that the 'Sabbath, which is the holy of the Lord and honorable,' is, by the authority of the rulers of our nation, violated in one important case; we mean the mail and post-office department.

The laws of our happy country, [that is, the laws of the several states,] say, "*No work shall be done on the Sabbath, by persons of any class;*" yet the law, to which we refer, says, that "carriers of mails, postmasters, and clerks, *shall work* on that holy day."

Petition of Inhabitants of Bedford county, Tennessee.

The subscribers humbly suggest, that the transportation of the mail on the Sabbath has an immoral tendency on the community, and is contrary to the laws of God; and *the laws of this State* require a due observance of the Sabbath.

Petition of Inhabitants of Kellyvale, Vermont.

Even those, in whom the people confide, and give them power to make laws, are liberated from the necessity of violating the Sabbath. May we remember the command not to bind burdens on men's shoulders, that we are not willing to bear

Petition of Inhabitants of Springfield, Pennsylvania.

The General Government has not the Constitutional Power to authorize a violation of the Sabbath. ✓

Your petitioners have long perceived, with the deepest regret, that the attempts of the state authorities to enforce the due observance of the Sabbath have been greatly obstructed, if not defeated, by persons acting under authority derived from the post-office department. If the general government actually possesses the right thus practically to annul a salutary law of the several states, and one which is founded upon the DIVINE COMMAND, it is hoped that at least a spirit of comity, and conciliation, will prevent its further exercise.

But your petitioners presume, that no such right is claimed by the national legislature, believing, as they do, that no such right exists. Surely no *express* authority to contravene the injunctions of the SUPREME LAWGIVER will be found in the national charter; and none is given *by implication*, unless we admit the preposterous conclusion, that the people of these states, so highly distinguished by the favor of the Almighty, have intentionally sanctioned the violation of his laws. Persuaded, as your petitioners are, that the regulation of the General Post-Office, requiring mails to be transported and opened on the Lord's day, is alike unnecessary and unauthorized, and confiding in the wisdom and piety of the congress of the United States, they do most respectfully and earnestly intreat, that a prompt and effectual remedy may be provided for the evil, of which they, in common with all the reflecting portion of our fellow citizens, have so just reason to complain.

Petition of JOHN COTTON SMITH,* and others, Inhabitants of Sharon, Connecticut.

If these things are true, have we not reason to deprecate the judgments of heaven upon our nation, because of the extent to which this offence is practised, under the pretence of post-office regulations, which are repugnant to the laws of the Supreme Governor, and to the *municipal enactments of every state in the Union*.

Your memorialists would respectfully inquire, upon what pretext is the law of God thus disregarded, and his sovereignty thus insulted?

Petition of Inhabitants of Washington county, Pennsylvania, unanimously adopted at a public meeting, JOHN HAMILTON, Chairman.

The religious freedom, *secured by the constitution to every citizen*, is infringed by a law, that offends the consciences of multitudes, and exacts from post-masters and others services forbidden by the religion, which most of them profess.

Petition of Inhabitants of Bedford, Westchester county, New-York.

We rejoice in the principles of universal religious toleration on which our general government is founded; and we would by no means desire that Congress should

* For many years a member of Congress, and subsequently Governor of Connecticut.

ever have the constitutional power of interfering in matters of religion. All that we request is, that *the powers of the government, given for good and legitimate objects*, should not be used to weaken the influence of religion, and thus *deprive us of the valuable privileges, transmitted to us by our ancestors.*

Petition of Inhabitants of the city of Boston.

The legal obligations, which bind us to the discharge of what we regard as merely secular offices on the Sabbath are, in our view, an infringement of that religious freedom and equality of privilege, which, *by the federal constitution*, are secured to all good citizens.

Petition of Inhabitants of Hudson, Portage county, Ohio.

Motive of Gratitude.

We would futhermore suggest, that these United States have long enjoyed the peculiar smiles of Heaven; that they have been blessed in an extraordinary degree; and that, therefore, *gratitude to the Source, whence all these blessings flow*, should induce all to keep holy the day, which is especially set apart for worshipping the God of our salvation.

Petition of Inhabitants of Telfair county, Georgia.

When we reflect on the many blessings, with which our country has been crowned;—that wholesome laws have been enacted; that the arts of peace have been successfully cultivated; and that the happiness of the people of our nation is so greatly promoted;—we acknowledge the *gratitude we owe to the GREAT ARCHTER OF NATIONS.*

Petition of Inhabitants of Rowan county, North Carolina.

We humbly conceive these things ought not so to be, and trust that, while we as a nation feel ourselves so highly indebted to *the Giver of all good*, you, in your wisdom, will say, 'Henceforward there shall be, in the mail department; no infringement of the sacred claims of the day of God.'

Petition of Inhabitants of Bedford county, Tennessee.

We, as a part of the civilized world, and as beings responsible to God, view, with much concern, the violation of one of his commandments, and concur with our fellow petitioners, that the practice is as unnecessary, as it is sinful;—that it is an infringement of our religious rights, with which an all-bountiful Creator has blessed us. Let us, therefore, in some measure *repay the Author of all Good*, for the innumerable favors, that he has supplied us with.

Petition of Inhabitants of Morgan county, Virginia.

The undersigned humbly, but earnestly, supplicate your legislative interference to prevent the future commission of this crying sin, and thus, as the representatives of this republic, testify your *gratitude to JEHOVAH*, by whose munificence our land is eminently blest, and, at the same time, do honor to yourselves, and avert from our common country those judgments, for which the sin of Sabbath-breaking so loudly calls.

Petition of HENRY THURSTON, postmaster, and others, inhabitants of the state of Ohio.

In a time of profound peace, when no argument can rest on the necessity of speedily conveying intelligence, affecting the safety of any portion of the community;—in a time of great prosperity, when the sentiment of *gratitude to the GREAT AUTHOR* of our unequalled national advantages, should urge to the observance of all institutions, which have any relation to His honor, and to the moral benefit of His rational offspring;—the conveyance of the mails, on the Sabbath, is, in the opinion of your memorialists, doubly offensive in the sight of Him, who averts from us the calamities of foreign war, and the greater calamity of domestic discord, and without whose protection and benediction, the prosperous state of our affairs would be succeeded by turbulence and misery, and our national greatness would dwindle away and perish.

Petition of Inhabitants of Albion, Maine.

It ought to be remembered, that there is no nation on the globe under so many *obligations of gratitude* as this. Our civil and religious freedom,—our social institutions,—our constantly advancing prosperity,—all demand the homage of our praise.

Petition of Inhabitants of Washington county, Pennsylvania, unanimously adopted at a public meeting, JOHN HAMILTON, Chairman.

The Sabbath necessary to Civil Liberty and National Prosperity.

It is admitted that virtue is essential to the existence of a free government, and civil institutions; that dissipation of morals, if it become general, would soon shake the foundation of our national edifice and sweep away our civil privileges. As the Sabbath is the grand instrument of giving tone and elevation to morals, its strict observance we regard as *all-important to sustain the civil liberties of our country.*

Petition of Inhabitants of Winnsboro', Fairfield District, South Carolina.

Your memorialists would beg leave to suggest, that the *stability and prosperity of our happy government* depend, in a great measure, on the intelligence, morality, and virtue of the people; that religion exalteth a nation; that sin is a reproach to any people; and that it is the direct way to call down the vengeance of heaven, when human laws are made to violate the laws of God.

Petition of the F. M. at Otter Bridge, Bedford county, Virginia, and of Citizens adjacent thereto.

The undersigned take the practice complained of to be contrary to sound policy, which dictates that civil liberty and Christian morals *stand or fall together.* We believe, that on a strict observance of the Sabbath the existence of Christian morals, in a great measure, depends.

Petition of Inhabitants of Tallmadge, Portage county, Ohio.

We appreciate highly not only the civil but the religious privileges for which our fathers bled; and which, dying, they bequeathed as their best legacy to us. Among these privileges we regard the quiet enjoyment of the Sabbath as preeminently valuable. Nor can we believe, that the desecration of this day by the transportation of mails, the delivery of letters, &c. is necessary, either for the safety, or the *high-est permanent prosperity*, of the people.

Petition of Inhabitants of Hudson, Portage county, Ohio.

We regard the institutions of religion as important means of promoting that piety and virtue, on which *the security of our rights and liberties chiefly depends*; and we cannot but hope, that the sanction of government will not be given to measures, which threaten to impair their salutary influence.

Petition of WILLIAM E. CHANNING and others, inhabitants of the city of Boston.

Your memorialists would respectfully remind your honorable bodies, that the whole current of history and observation is in favor of the influence of the Sabbath upon the temporal prosperity of communities; that wherever this day has been consecrated to religious instruction, and to the duties of public and private worship, the people have been distinguished for industry, peaceable habits, and especially for that intelligence and personal virtue, that sense of justice, of individual rights, and of the responsibility of rulers and private men to the Sovereign Ruler of all, *which are essential to the existence of a free government.*

Petition of Inhabitants of the city of Boston.

Your memorialists represent, that the proper observance of the Sabbath,—is no less a matter of *sound policy*, than of true piety;—that good and pious men are scandalized by the growing disregard of such wise observance;—and that the transportation and opening of the mails on that day have a direct tendency to destroy, in the minds of men, that piety and morality, so necessary to be cherished by a **RE-PUBLICAN PEOPLE.**

Petition of Inhabitants of Perry County, Ohio.

The undersigned, deeply solicitous for the welfare of our beloved country, and for the continued enjoyment and higher possession of that liberty, which constitutes her most distinguished characteristic, and fully believing that an encouragement to the due observance of the Christian Sabbath, in all the laws of our land, is *essential to the proper security of her liberties*, beg leave to present the following memorial, respectfully and earnestly soliciting your attention, as the constituted guardians of our republic, to what we consider as an evil, tending to the subversion of *her freedom, her interests, and her happiness*; besides operating, in some measure at least, as a present infringement upon the liberties of a portion of our fellow citizens.

Petition of Inhabitants of Atwater, Portage County, Ohio.

The observance of the commandment of God to *keep holy the Sabbath Day*, we consider as necessary to *national* as to *individual* prosperity.

Petition of IRA DAVID, Postmaster, and others, Inhabitants of the State of Vermont.

We believe those practices to be injurious to the morals of a free people, and dangerous in their influence on the civil institutions of our country; that, in a Christian land, where the government of God is recognized, the observance of this day should be held sacred, and that the extensive violation of it, involves the *destruction of civil liberty*, and is contrary to the laws of God, and detrimental to the physical, civil, and moral good of the people.

Petition of Inhabitants of Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

We believe morality and religion to be *essential to the welfare* of our republic; and that neither of them can remain secure, without a due observance of the Christian Sabbath.

Petition of Inhabitants of Lisbon, Connecticut.

We are fully assured, that the same dependence on the God of nations, which emboldened our fathers to resist the encroachments of the parent country, and which supported them amidst the perils and toils of the revolutionary struggle, is our only security for perpetuating those unparalleled privileges, which they obtained for us, at the expense of so much treasure and blood. That *righteousness exalteth a nation*, is a maxim, written as legibly on the pages of the history of nations as on the pages of the inspired volume, and from this consideration we must respectfully and earnestly solicit your honorable body to direct the transportation of the mail to be suspended on the Lord's day, which necessarily involves so many of our fellow-citizens in the violation of that holy time.

Petition of Inhabitants of Salem, Washington county, New York.

Deeming the institution of the holy Sabbath as a day of rest, and of public and private worship, in the highest degree essential to the preservation of Christianity amongst us, and the prevalence of our holy religion *essential to our national well-being*,—it is a matter deeply affecting us and our children. In this point of view we have long felt, that the transmission of the United States mail is an unnecessary and alarming infringement on the commandment of God.

Petition of Inhabitants of Le Roy, New York.

The Sabbath a Great Blessing, and its loss an Incalculable Evil.

The good sense of nations has taught them, that the restraints imposed by religion are all necessary to curb the passions and regulate the morals of society. By the Sabbath an opportunity is afforded to ministers to preach—to the people generally to hear the precepts of religion—and all to worship God. The Sabbath and its institutions seem to be appointed for, and admirably adapted to, preparing the human family for a future state of being.

Petition of Inhabitants of Greensburg, Beaver county, Pennsylvania.

We deem the Christian Sabbath a blessing to mankind;—a most effectual purifier of the public morals, enlightener of the public mind, guardian of the public safety, and promoter of public prosperity; that, therefore, its due observance, according to the Holy Scriptures, will call forth divine favor upon the nation, whilst, on the other hand, its profanation must be followed by expressions of divine wrath.

Petition of Inhabitants of Northumberland county, Pennsylvania.

Who does not know what darkness and degradation would succeed a universal disregard of the Sabbath? Let the Sabbath be banished from our country, and our light and privileges would begin to wane, and continue to wane, until not a trace of them would be left behind.

Petition of Inhabitants of Rensselaer county, New-York.

We would hope, too, that the members of our government, by their conspicuous example, in this regard, by their cogent arguments in the halls of legislation, and by their manifestation of a sacred regard for the Sabbath, in all the arrangements of business at the seat of government, in the army and the navy, in all the public offices, and upon the highways of our land, will exert a powerful influence in checking the immoralities named, and in protecting an institution which is more efficacious in *perpetuating the blessings of a free government*, than the best laws ever framed by the wisdom of man.

Petition of Inhabitants of the city of New York.

The Sabbath a temporal benefit.

Your memorialists would represent that in the rest from labor, which the Sabbath enjoins, *the comfort and health of man are promoted*; and by the devotion of a set time to the contemplation of our condition as moral and responsible beings, the virtue and intelligence of the community are most certainly advanced, and thereby the prosperity and liberties of the country secured.

Petition of Inhabitants of the city of Philadelphia.

Without entering at all into the imperative nature of the obligation, which requires of Christians to observe this day as sacredly set apart and appropriated to religious observances, we may urge, in favor of the prayer of the memorialists, *the general usefulness of the institution*;—a fact attested by common observation, and universally admitted by persons of every religious persuasion. A proper observance of the Sabbath greatly tends to promote and strengthen moral habits, and, in a variety of ways, *to better the general condition of society*; and, unquestionably, the promotion of these objects is, or ought to be, *the great end of human legislation*.

Petition of Merchants of the city of Baltimore.

The experience of individuals proves, that it is their true interest to obey the divine precept, and rest from business on the Sabbath; and we are fully persuaded that *the national welfare* will be promoted by discontinuing the practice of transporting and opening mails, and delivering letters, on that day.

Petition of Inhabitants of Washington county, Maryland.

Your memorialists regard the institution of the Sabbath, as one of the most striking proofs of the divine beneficence, and as affording the only adequate means for preserving the fear of God, the sanctity of oaths, genuine personal integrity, the public morals, and our civil and political privileges. Though there are too many in our land, who practically disregard the Sabbath, yet, it is believed there are few, who would willingly see that sacred day abolished.

Petition of Inhabitants of the city of Boston.

The practice complained of injurious to morals.

The transportation and opening of the mail, and the delivery of letters and newspapers from post-offices on the Lord's day, are practices *injurious to the morals* and to the civil and religious institutions of our country.

Petition of Inhabitants of Boonsboro' and the Vicinity, Washington county, Maryland.

Your memorialists would state, that the laws, which require the opening of post-offices, &c. on the Sabbath, have, in their influence, *an exceedingly demoralizing effect* upon the community; and that they are contrary to the feelings of a large and increasing portion of this nation.

Petition of Inhabitants of Elizabethtown, New-Jersey.

The undersigned cannot but regard the transportation and opening of the mails on the Lord's day *as injurious to the morals* of the community, and as a violation of that rest, which all, who recognise the authority of the New Testament, not only feel it their duty to observe, but the observance of which they consider a glorious privilege.

Petition of Inhabitants of Spotsylvania county, Virginia.

Human passions are quite sufficient, of themselves, without any legal pretext or encouragement, to cause many more violations of the Sabbath, than human laws can prevent.

Petition of JAMES M. GARNETT, and others, inhabitants of Virginia.

The undersigned have, for a long time, viewed with sorrow *the demoralizing effect* produced by the transportation and opening of the mail on the Sabbath, as well in this county, as in other parts.

Petition of Inhabitants of Accomac county, Virginia.

Your petitioners, believing the profanation of the Sabbath *a general and growing evil* in our happy country, and fully persuaded that this evil is perpetuated by the transportation and opening of the public mails on that day,—humbly pray, that you, who are, under Providence, intrusted with the affairs of our nation, &c.

Petition of Inhabitants of Edinburg, Ohio.

We believe the transportation of the mails, and the opening of post-offices, on the

Sabbath, to be entirely unnecessary; and, if so, a profanation of this sacred day; that, in many cases, these practices disturb the religious exercises of whole communities, *tempt people to the same sin*, and constitute a serious obstacle, in the way of religious instruction and moral reformation.

Petition of Inhabitants of Northumberland county, Pennsylvania.

Your memorialists feel confident, that the practice complained of has a *demoralizing influence* upon the community; and that it can with ease and safety be dispensed with.

Petition of NICHOLAS LANSING and others, Inhabitants of Tappan, New York.

Your memorialists beg leave respectfully to represent—That the transportation and opening of mails, and the delivery of letters and newspapers from post-offices, on the Lord's day, are practices *injurious to the morals*, and consequently dangerous in their influence upon the civil institutions of this country.

Petition of Inhabitants of the city of New York.

Your memorialists are fully convinced, that the transportation of the mail on the Sabbath, and the opening of Post-Offices on that day, operate constantly and powerfully to bring *the Sabbath itself into neglect and contempt*; that these causes are more difficult to be limited and counteracted by the true friends of their Country, than any other, if not than all other, causes combined; and that no remedy can be found, unless the national authority shall interpose to correct the evil.

Petition of Inhabitants of the city of Boston.

The violation of the Sabbath, by the running of the mail-stages on that day, is considered by all pious and reflecting persons as an insult to Almighty God, and as likely to produce a *great corruption of public morals*, unless the practice is speedily reformed.

Petition of the Grand Jury of Washington county, Pennsylvania, signed by G. P. PLUMMER, Foreman, and the other Jurymen.

The evil complained of alarming.

Your petitioners deem it unnecessary to repeat the arguments and motives, so forcibly urged in the New York memorial, for the suppression of a practice, which has become *most alarming in its extent*; and which, if suffered to continue, must, as they verily believe, draw down the sorest visitations of Heaven upon our country.

Petition of Inhabitants of Sharon, Connecticut.

Your memorialists have witnessed this *increasing immorality* with deep regret and solicitude, and they are constrained to believe that it is in vain for the friends of good order to attempt to protect this holy day from desecration, while the government allows the mails to be carried on Sundays, and requires the post-masters to deliver letters, papers, and packets "on every day of the week." We feel that we have a right to look to the government of our country for example; and that those, whom the people have clothed with power, will not permit a practice which is continually *undermining the morals*, and consequently endangering the liberties, of the nation.

Petition of Inhabitants of the city of New York.

The undersigned would respectfully represent, that the transportation of the mail on the Sabbath, and the opening of the post-offices on that day *are great public evils*, in no sense necessary, and not counterbalanced by any supposed convenience arising from them.

Petition of Inhabitants of the city of Boston.

A disregard of the Sabbath a public offence and an inroad to crimes.

Your memorialists believe, with the celebrated Blackstone, that the profanation of the Lord's day is *an offence against God and religion*.

Petition of Inhabitants of Treaton, New York.

Your memorialists beg leave also to appeal to your own observation, as statesmen and legislators, to sustain us when we assert, that the disregard and breach of the Fourth Commandment is generally *the first inroad to crime*; and that moral delinquency, in any country, increases in a ratio with the profanation of the day.

Petition of Inhabitants of Washington county, Pennsylvania.

The present regulations a hardship, as it respects postmasters, mail carriers, &c.

When we reflect on the number of persons employed in discharging the various duties relative to post-offices, such as postmasters, deputies, clerks, mail-carriers, &c. we cannot but regret that the subject has not, long since, met the attention of the American public.

We heartily concur in the efforts, which are making, to restore to postmasters, &c. a privilege, which, under the present regulations, is *denied to them*;—we mean the privilege of the Christian Sabbath, which we believe it to be the right of every person in America to enjoy.

Petition of Inhabitants of Washington county, Alabama.

Those citizens, [postmasters, &c.] are *compelled to follow* their daily vocation, in violation of the law of God, while all other citizens are, by the laws of God as well as of man, especially forbidden thus to violate that consecrated day.

Petition of Inhabitants of Telfair county, Georgia.

While every other grade and order of the people of this Union are permitted a cessation from toil during the Sabbath, yet the persons engaged in this national affair, [the post-office department,] are *compelled to drive on* without intermission.

Petition of Inhabitants of Callaway county, Kentucky.

We pray your honorable body so to change the laws regulating the post-office establishment, as, in time of peace, (at all events,) to prohibit the transporting of mails and the opening of post-offices on the Sabbath, and thereby afford to that portion of our fellow citizens, [postmasters, &c.] the enjoyment of this rest, which is a *privilege guaranteed to every human being* by the laws of God.

Petition of Inhabitants of Washington county, Kentucky.

Your memorialists would urge, that nothing short of inevitable necessity can justify the imposition of such labors upon so many officers throughout the Union—an imposition, which is extended to *no other body of men* in our country.

Petition of Inhabitants of Elkton, Todd county, Kentucky.

The attention, which postmasters and their clerks are *obliged to pay* to their respective offices on the Sabbath, is a violation of the laws of God and our country. All other officers of our government are exempt from performing labor on that day.

Petition of Inhabitants in the vicinity of Mount Tirzah post-office, North Carolina.

The petitioners regret exceedingly the existence of a law requiring the transportation and opening of mails and the delivery of letters on the Sabbath day. By this law a large and respectable body of our fellow citizens are *deprived of an opportunity* of necessary repose from their daily avocations, and are likewise *prevented the use* of the customary means of spiritual and intellectual improvement.

Petition of Inhabitants of Kent Island, Queen Ann's county, Maryland.

It will, moreover, be admitted, that, in no department under the direction of the general government, is it more necessary that the agents employed should possess the highest degree of moral feeling, and the strictest integrity, than in the post-office establishment. It cannot, therefore, be wise in the government, to *deprive, by its own regulations*, those, who are charged with the important trusts of this department, of those means and opportunities for social and religious improvement, which are, by common consent, acknowledged so eminently to contribute to the knowledge and practice of all the moral duties.

Petition of Merchants of Baltimore.

An arrangement of the kind suggested would very much meliorate the situation of deputy postmasters throughout the Union, *by guaranteeing to them the privilege*, common to every other citizen, of spending the Sabbath in the public worship of their God, or in retirement and rest.

Petition of Inhabitants of Washington county, Maryland.

Your memorialists are not aware of any reasons, which can recommend this departure from the practice of the government, *in regard to all the other public offices*. It did not prevail, in the earlier years of the republic, and was not adopted, it is believed, in consequence of representations from those, whose interest, or convenience, is supposed to be promoted by it. If such, however, were the fact, it would be partial in its operation, giving an advantage to some over a large portion of

the community, who are restrained by conscientious motives from a participation in it.
Petition of Inhabitants of Trenton, New Jersey.

A large body of our best and most respectable citizens have long considered the transporting and opening the mail on the Sabbath a serious grievance; and that portion of our citizens, whose business it is, by law, to attend to the labors of the post-office on the Sabbath, are doomed to *such unequal burdens and privations*, as should not be exacted from any portion of our citizens.

Petition of Inhabitants of Chester District, South Carolina.

Justice, in behalf of a numerous, influential, and valuable class of public officers, pleads for an *exemption from official duties* on the Lord's day. Some, from an untiring attention to the duties of their office, on the Sabbath day, have not been to the house of God for years.

Again, such a regulation, as your memorialists ask for, would promote the general interests of the mail department, in the best possible manner. It would invite many to act as postmasters, and to serve as carriers, who are now effectually barred from those places, by the fear of offending God.

Petition of Inhabitants of Spartansburg District, South Carolina.

Having long been impressed with the evil and impropriety of the transportation and opening of the mail on the Sabbath, we, your memorialists do pray, that, during the present session, a law may be passed to *guarantee to postmasters and their clerks* those privileges, which are enjoyed by all the other officers under government, and which, by the laws of God, are not denied to any human being.

Petition of Inhabitants of Blairsville and vicinity, York District, South Carolina.

Whereas the transporting and opening of the mail, and the delivery of letters on the Sabbath, are believed to be a violation of the holy rest required on that day, which not only deprives postmasters of the privileges of the Sabbath; but, in many places, disturbs the peace and quietude and devotion of others; and

Whereas all other offices under government are closed, and no body of men *are required by law* to work for others, as postmasters are, on that day:

Your memorialists respectfully petition your honorable body, &c.

Petition of Inhabitants of East Gilmanton, New Hampshire.

By the present practice, *many thousands of our citizens* are engaged on the Sabbath, as on other days, and many pious Christians are disturbed in their religious exercises.

Petition of Inhabitants of Greenville, Augusta county, Virginia.

In all Christian countries the Sabbath is a day of rest and set apart for religious worship; and your memorialists can see no necessity, especially in time of peace, for profaning it, by keeping at labor so many persons, as the post-office department requires. Besides, all the other offices under government are closed on that day; and it seems unreasonable, that *the post-office alone should be kept open*.

Petition of AUGUSTUS FITSHUGH and others, citizens of King George county, Virginia.

The undersigned represent that the mail passes through this neighborhood on the Sabbath, which causes very great inconvenience to the different postmasters on the aforesaid route, being five in number, so that themselves or clerks *must be deprived of attending divine worship*, on the day set apart for the purpose.

Petition of Postmasters and others, inhabitants of Columbiana county, Ohio, and Beaver county, Pennsylvania.

We verily believe, that these things constitute a violation of the Sabbath wounding to the virtuous feelings of a very large portion of the community, in all parts of our land, embracing most of those, who are connected with the various denominations of Christians in our country, and operating *very injuriously upon the interests and rights* of all who are employed in the transportation of the mail, and in the post-offices, depriving them of the liberty of enjoying the Christian Sabbath, as a day of rest.

Petition of Inhabitants of Atwater, Portage county, Ohio.

By the recent report of the Postmaster General, we perceive that the services of about 27,000 persons are put in requisition, in the various branches of this department. A large proportion of these are *compelled to attend this business* on the Sabbath, or resign their posts. In addition to the personal hardship and injury to

these individuals, their example, dispersed as they are throughout the nation, and acting under the high sanction of government, must be very baleful. We see no cause to justify this arrangement; for the plea of necessity appears no more specious than in the case of men's common avocations. By the Sabbath labors of these *many thousands of men*, we have our letters occasionally a day or two sooner. Similar calculations might be made of the results of labor, in any other useful occupation. We are therefore compelled to consider this in the light of a great national sin against the God of all our mercies, for which we have reason to fear his righteous indignation. We are unwilling thus to be accommodated, in violation of the laws of God, and to the prejudice of the best interests of our beloved country.

We also apprehend, that the present regulations have a direct tendency to consign the very responsible charge of the mail to the hands of men, who fear not God, nor regard moral obligation. Already has the mail been frequently plundered, by those to whom it was confided.

Petition of Inhabitants of Norfolk, Connecticut.

The evil spreads far beyond the persons employed in the Post-Office Department.

While the mails are transported on the first day of the week, there will be much unnecessary travelling, the post-offices will be opened, the news-rooms thronged, workmen employed in printing-offices, expresses sent in various directions, and the attention of large portions of the community withdrawn from a becoming reverence of the day, to be occupied with secular concerns. Your memorialists deem it unnecessary to urge upon the congress of the United States the obligation of observing the Lord's day, of protecting the people in their religious privileges, and of the baneful consequences of practices which, under the sanction of government, is an apology *for every other violation of the Sabbath by individuals*. They may, however, be permitted to state, that the government of God is recognized in this Christian land; that the observance of the Lord's day is enjoined by divine authority, and that history furnishes abundant evidence that a general disregard of it involves the destruction of civil liberty.

Petition of Inhabitants of the city of New-York.

The subscribers have long witnessed with regret the profanation of the Lord's day by the transportation of the mail.

The thoughtless, who are always too careless of improving sacred time, are tempted; the pious are grieved; travellers in stages must forego the privileges of the sanctuary, or lose their passage; innkeepers and villages are disturbed by the arrival of the mail.

Petition of Inhabitants of Ryegate, Vermont.

The transportation and opening of the mail, and the delivery of letters on the Sabbath, are viewed by your memorialists as an evil tending to the neglect of an institution, the observance of which is necessary to permanent good order and morality, and, of course, to the permanent prosperity of the people;—an evil tending *to encourage travelling and the transportation of merchandize* on the Sabbath, inasmuch that, in many places, the worshippers of God are greatly annoyed, in passing to and from their places of worship;—and tending, moreover, to draw down upon our beloved country the judgments of Heaven.

Petition of Inhabitants of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania.

The number of persons connected with the post-office establishment is very great, and annually increasing. The number of those, who are indirectly affected by that establishment, is *still greater*; and the consequences of a violation of the Sabbath by its officers and agents are felt by a *very large portion* of the community.

Petition of Inhabitants of the city of Boston.

Inconvenience of the mail resting on the Sabbath is but small.

As merchants, we are, perhaps, more interested in the facilities afforded by the mail, than any other members of the community. We believe that the inconveniences, which would result from the regulations prayed for, would be *very inconsiderable*; and were they greater than we anticipate, we are sure they would be more than counterbalanced by the benefits, which would accrue to the community, from a due observance of the Sabbath.

Petition of merchants of Baltimore.

After duly reflecting on the subject, your memorialists are decidedly of the opinion, that *no inconvenience*, or disadvantage, would result to their neighborhood from a discontinuance of the mails on the Sabbath.

Petition of Inhabitants of Washington county, Maryland.

The post-office in London is never opened on Sundays, and there seems to us *no necessity* that post-offices in this country should be opened on that day, especially in time of peace.

Petition of Inhabitants of Caroline county, Maryland.

In London, the greatest commercial city in the world, the post-office is not opened, nor any mail made up, on Sunday; from which it may be inferred, that it is *not necessary for the convenience* of the mercantile public.

Petition of Inhabitants of Trenton, New-Jersey.

The undersigned are free to admit, that occasions may exist, which, coming within the exceptions permitted by divine authority, would warrant a relaxation of the general inhibition of labor on the Sabbath; but none such have arisen, or are likely to arise, in a state of peace; and they are informed, that an example, at once instructive and salutary, is offered in the city of London, the metropolis of the greatest commercial nation in the world.

Petition of Inhabitants of Virginia, presented by Hon. J. S. BARBOUR.

We can see but *little advantage* arising to society at large, from transporting and opening mails on the Sabbath; and that this practice is a great evil is acknowledged by many, who are engaged in it, and felt deeply by others.

Petition of Inhabitants of Coshocton, Ohio.

Hitherto the mail has been conveyed on the main route from Utica to Sackett's Harbour but six times a week; and, in stating our opinions we are confident, from an interchange of sentiments with others, many of whom are men of business, influence, and respectability, in this part of the country, that *no inconvenience* has been experienced from this arrangement. We deeply regret to hear, that contracts have been made for its future transportation on the Sabbath.

Petition of HIRAM STEELE and others, Inhabitants of Sackett's Harbour, N. Y.

The example of the first commercial city in Europe, in which the post-office is never opened during the Sabbath, affords strong presumptive evidence, that the practice is *wholly unnecessary*, as respects the commercial interests of our country.

Petition of Inhabitants of Bridgehampton, Long-Island.

The Example of Government pernicious.

The legal injunction on postmasters, and, their sub-officers, to attend to the duties of their offices on the Sabbath, certainly prohibits them from attending to the performance of the duties required of them by the Governor of the Universe, who sanctified and set that day apart, to be observed as a day of abstinence from secular employment, and of rest for every individual of the human family. Moreover, the indulgence granted to mail coaches to pursue their daily vocation on that day holds forth a *demoralizing precedent* to the citizens of the United States. Many teamsters, disposed to commit breaches of the Sabbath, by transporting merchandize on that day, plead, in justification of their conduct, to be entitled to the same privileges, as those which mail coaches enjoy.

Petition of Inhabitants of Strasburg, Lancaster county, Pennsylvania.

Many, who habitually violate the Lord's day, plead *the example of the post-office*, as an apology.

Petition of Inhabitants of Chester county, Pennsylvania.

With the deepest regret your memorialists have witnessed the profanation of the Sabbath by the transportation of the mails, and the delivery of letters. By so doing, the government *sets the example* of profaning that holy day—a day of rest.

Petition of Inhabitants of Pennsylvania, (supposed to be from Chester county.)

The command of God, and the welfare of our country require, that you should make no law, which lays the burden of breaking the Sabbath upon inferior officers; that from the fountain head of the public good no stream should be sent forth to desolate our comfort, our intelligence, our morals, our liberties, and our religion.

Petition of Inhabitants of the vicinity of Agnew's Mills, Pennsylvania.

We believe we have a right to look to the government of our country for example; and we trust that Congress will not suffer a practice, which continually undermines the morals of the community.

Petition of Inhabitants of Windsor, Connecticut.

That the direct effect of the present regulations in the post-office department, together with the influence of an *example originating with the government*, tends greatly to the general profanation of an institution, with which the best interests of our country are connected, and leads to numerous breaches of the good order and peace of society.

Petition of Inhabitants of Philadelphia.

The religious assemblies of citizens, peaceably convened for the worship of God on that day, are in many places disturbed, and the weight of *national example and encouragement* is given to the cause of vice and irreligion. Believing, as we do, in the existence of a God of justice, we tremble at a view of the judgments, which must be expected from the increased corruption of the public morals, which is spreading throughout our republic to an alarming extent, and of which the desecration of the Christian Sabbath is the most prolific source. Regarding the subject in a political point of view, we apprehend, that those feelings of reverence for the Sabbath, which exist in the minds of the more virtuous part of the community, have too serious a bearing upon the stability and perpetuity of our free institutions, to be discouraged and eradicated by legislative enactments. Such, we think, to a very great extent, is the tendency of that law, which *requires the secular business*, respecting the mail for this whole country, to be transacted on that day, in some measure at least, as on other days of the week.

Petition of Inhabitants of Atwater, Portage county, Ohio.

The *demoralizing effect* of withdrawing so many officers from exercises peculiar to the day;—the allurements held out to our citizens to gather around the offices and engage in political discussion;—the influence of *governmental example*, in giving a sanction to the violation of the Sabbath;—together with many other similar considerations, cannot have escaped the attention of your honorable body.

Petition of Inhabitants of Elkton, Todd county, Kentucky.

These extracts are closed by the insertion of the following Circular, adopted by inhabitants of Nashville, Tennessee, and addressed to gentlemen in different parts of that state. The compiler is informed, that the members of the committee are men of the first respectability. Several of them are merchants; some are magistrates; one is an editor; and Mr. Grundy was formerly a distinguished member of congress, and is now an eminent counsellor at law. They belong to different denominations of professed Christians.

Gentlemen,

NASHVILLE, Dec. 29, 1828.

As a committee appointed by a meeting lately held in this city, we ask your serious attention to the subject of the enclosed memorial. We feel a deep and solemn conviction that the dictates of *wise public policy*, as well as a *just sense of religious duty*, require that every discreet and temperate effort should be made, to induce the Government of the United States to amend the laws regulating the post-office department, so as to prevent the transportation and opening of mails, and the delivery of letters, newspapers and packages on the day, which is almost universally acknowledged in our country as the Christian Sabbath.

We, therefore, in compliance with the duty enjoined on us, earnestly solicit your prompt co-operation, in procuring signatures to the enclosed memorial, from as many persons of virtuous character as you can; and that you forward your memorial, when signed, with as little delay as possible, by mail, to such member of congress as you may deem proper.

Very respectfully, your ob't servants,

WM. CARROLL,
FRANCIS B. FOGG,
O. H. HAYES,
F. GRUNDY,
MOSES NORVELL,
M. WATSON,

WM. M'COMBS,
ROBT. H. M'EWEN,
HUGH ELLIOT,
JOHN NICHOL,
ALPHA KINGSLEY,
NATHAN EWING,

JOSEPH LITTON,
JOHN PRICE,
R. WEAKLEY,
JESSE WHARTON,
H. R. W. HILL,
N. A. M'NAIRY.

SELECTED NAMES

From the multitudes to be found upon the petitions.

It has been intimated, that the whole business of petitioning last winter, on the subject of Sabbath Mails, was the result of *combination*, for selfish or ambitious purposes; and that the petitioners, though some of them might be honest and well meaning persons, were not capable of judging in regard to a question affecting *commercial interests*, or *constitutional provisions*. These imputations were effectually repelled, by the report of the Post Office Committee of the House of Representatives, in which document it was stated, that no petition had ever been offered to the national legislature, which was more worthy of consideration than the one in question, whether the numbers, the wealth, or the intelligence of the petitioners was regarded. As a general declaration of respectability, however, will, in this case, be much less convincing, than an actual presentation of names, a selection has been made for that purpose.

Before the reader looks at these names, it seems necessary that a few explanatory remarks should be made.

1. The design is, to present a sufficient number of names of gentleman in different places, of various employments, and of different religious denominations, to enable any candid man to decide, whether the petitioners are not capable of judging in the case; whether they must not be supposed to look at the subject with enlarged and comprehensive views; and whether the mere act of signing the petition should subject them to the charge of being narrow, sectarian, and selfish in their object.

2. It should be understood, that selections could not be made from petitioners in all parts of the country, for the want of a sufficiently extensive acquaintance with their characters. On this account, the number of names selected from some states is small; while, from petitioners of other states, none are taken.

3. From the names of persons of all professions and employments, it seemed desirable to select some belonging to the different great religious denominations in our country;—names highly respected, in large districts where they are known, and some of them from one end of the country to the other. Such a selection will be found below. For a reason above stated, it was thought well, that a large portion of the names should be the names of *merchants*, *counsellors at law*, *magistrates*, and *legislators*; or of individuals, who had sustained these characters; not excluding, however, *manufacturers*, *mechanics*, and other men of business. The names of clergymen are not selected, except from one petition, and thence for peculiar reasons.

It is to be presumed that the clergy, of all denominations, are friendly to the observance of the Sabbath; and many of them signed the petitions. Still the clergy, in our large cities, were in no wise prominent, either in preparing petitions, or signing them, or obtaining signers. Men of other professions took this service upon themselves.

All, who are acquainted with the characters of men in our country, will see that the following list contains names of individuals, who are deservedly eminent, in the professions to which they belong. But it is not supposed that all, who are of this distinguished character,

have been selected. There may be, and probably are, names, which have *not* been selected, quite as respectable, and as deserving of confidence, as any of the names below. It is not the object of this selection to indicate, in any degree, the relative respectability of a part of the petitioners; much less to make any invidious distinctions among them; but simply to lay before the reader such a number of respectable names, as shall be sufficient to evince, that this subject has received the grave and solemn attention of men, who, without disparagement to others, are as capable, as *any men in the nation*, of forming an opinion respecting the great and permanent interests of our growing republic.

In one or two instances, names are given, which were not upon *petitions*, but upon letters written *in favor of the petitions*, to the post-master general.

From the petitioners the following names are selected; viz.

MAINE.

Portland.

ALBION K. PARRIS, late Governor, since Senator in Congress, now a Judge of the Supreme Court.

PASCHAL BROOKS, Merchant.

LEVI CUTTER, Mer. formerly Cashier.

WOODBURY STOKER, Counsellor at Law.

WILLIAM LORD, Merchant.

NATHANIEL DANA, Merchant.

SAMUEL FESSENDEN, Counsellor at Law.

JOHN D. GARDNER, Com. Mer. and Auc.

WILLIAM SWAN, Merchant.

NEHEMIAH CRAM, Merchant.

ETHER SHEPLEY, U. S. District Attorney.

JONATHAN HYDE, Merchant.

Gen. HENRY SEWALL, Clerk of the Courts.

WILLIAM D. WILLIAMSON, formerly Member of Congress.

ELIASHIE ADAMS, Merchant.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Boscawen.

EZEKIEL WEBSTER, (since deceased,) a distinguished Counsellor at Law, and Member of the Senate of N. H.

Gen. SAMUEL RICHARDSON, Magistrate, formerly Member of the Senate of N. H.

BARUCH CHASE, Magistrate.

VERMONT.

Burlington.

C. P. VAN NESS, late Governor of the State.

HEMAN ALLEN, late Minister of the U. S. to Chili.

OZIAS BUELL, Merchant.

WILLIAM A. GRISWOLD, U. S. Dis. Att.

SAMUEL HICKOK, Merchant.

ANDREW THOMPSON, Cash. of Burl. Bank.

JEDUTHAN LOOMIS, Counsellor at Law.

Middlebury.

IRA STEWART, Merchant.

GEORGE CLEVELAND, Post Master.

JOEL DOOLITTLE, late Judge of the Supreme Court.

PETER STARR, Counsellor at Law.

SAMUEL SWIFT, Clerk of the Courts.

Rutland.

J. W. HOOKER, Merchant.

WILLIAM PAGE, Cashier of the Bank.

JAMES D. BUTLER, Merchant.

R. PIERPOINT, Counsellor at Law.

Manchester.

RICHARD SKINNER, late Governor, now Chief Justice.

JOEL PRATT, Counsellor at Law.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Boston.

THOMAS L. WINTHROP, Lieut. Governor.

ISAAC PARKER, Chief Justice.

ISRAEL THORNDIKE, Merchant, for many years Member of Mass. Senate.

WILLIAM PRESCOTT, Counsellor at Law.

JOSIAH QUINCY, Mayor, formerly Member of Congress.

T. H. PERKINS, Merchant, for several years Member of Mass. Senate.

ARTEMAS WARD, Judge of the Boston Court of Common Pleas, formerly Member of Congress for Boston.

PETER O. THACHER, Judge of the Municipal Court.

WILLIAM SIMMONS, Judge of the Police Court.

SAMUEL APFLETON, Merchant.

EDWARD TUCKERMAN, Merchant.

GARDINER GREENE, President of the U. S. Branch Bank.

WILLIAM PARSONS, Pres. of Mass. Bank.

SAMUEL DORR, Pres. of N. E. Bank.

GEORGE ODIERNE, Pres. American Bank.

ISAAC C. PRAY, President Globe Bank.

H. B. STONE, President Suffolk Bank.

AMOS LAWRENCE, Merchant.

SAMUEL T. ARMSTRONG, Pres. Mass. Char. Mechanic Association.

(*many lawyers*)

PETER C. BROOKS, Wealthy Citizen, formerly Member of Mass. Senate.
SAMUEL HAMMOND, Merchant.
WILLIAM ROPES, Merchant.
SAMUEL HUBBARD, Counsellor at Law, formerly Member of Mass. Senate.
JOHN C. WARREN, Physician and Professor of Anatomy.
JAMES LORING, Editor and Bookseller.
JAMES ANDREWS, Merchant.
EBENEZER PARKER, Merchant.
JOHN BORLAND, Merchant.
THOMAS G. FESSENDEN, Editor.
WILLIAM SULLIVAN, Counsellor at Law.
HEMAN LINCOLN, late Mem. of Mass. Sen.
WILLIAM LAWRENCE, Merchant.
JOHN TAPPAN, Merchant.
DANIEL P. PARKER, Ship-owner.
CHARLES BARNARD, Com. Merchant.
THOMAS CORDIS, Importer.
SAMUEL D. PARKER, Counsellor at Law.
THOMAS B. WAIT, Publisher.
LOT WHEELRIGHT & SONS, Merchants.
ISAAC MANSFIELD, Merchant.
HENRY HOMES, Importer.
TOBIAS LORD, Merchant.
JOHN B. JONES, Jeweller.
ENOCH HALE, Jun. Physician.
JAMES C. MERRILL, Counsellor at Law.
A. BENJAMIN, Architect.
NATHANIEL FAXON, Mechanic.
GEDNEY KING, Math. Instrument Maker.
EDWARD REYNOLDS, Physician.
CHARLES G. LORING, Counsellor at Law.
ABBOTT LAWRENCE, Merchant.
W. & G. TUCKERMAN, Merchants.
EDWARD D. PETERS, Merchant.
ROBERT G. SHAW, Merchant.
WILLIAM B. REYNOLDS, Merchant.
JOHN PRATT, Merchant.
PLINY CUTLER, Merchant.

Williamstown.

DANIEL NOBLE, Coun. at Law, formerly Mem. of Ex. Council of Mass.

Lenox.

W. WALKER, Judge of Probate, a venerable citizen.

Pittsfield.

HENRY C. BROWN, High Sheriff.

Blanford.

Gen. ALANSON KNOX.

Middlefield.

Gen. DAVID MACK.

Greenfield.

GEORGE GREENNELL, Jun. Counsellor at Law, elected a Mem. of the 21st Cong.

Northampton.

ELIPHALET WILLIAMS, retired Merchant.

THEODORE LYMAN, Master of a Hotel.

DAVID S. WHITNEY, Merchant.

LEWIS STRONG, Counsellor at Law, and Member of Mass. Senate.

Springfield.

JOHN HOOKER, (since deceased,) a man of great worth, highly respected, Pres. of Springfield Bank, Judge of Probate, &c.

West Springfield.

JUSTIN ELY, formerly Member of Cong.

SAMUEL LATHROP, late Member of Cong. now Member of Mass. Senate.

Belchertown.

MARK DOOLITTLE, Member of Ex. Council of Mass.

Sturbridge.

DAVID K. PORTER, Post-master and Stage Proprietor.

Lincoln.

SAMUEL HOAR, a venerable citizen, formerly Mem. of Mass. Senate.

South Reading.

JOHN HART, a venerable Physician, formerly Member of Mass. Sen.

Medford.

THATCHER MAGOUN, Ship-builder.

Cambridge.

LEVI FARWELL, Merchant.

ELIAS W. METCALF, Printer & Bookseller.

Salem.

JOHN PUNCHARD, Magistrate.

THEODORE EAMES, Counsellor at Law.

Topsfield.

NEHEMIAH CLEVELAND, Physician, formerly Member of Mass. Senate.

Newburyport.

WILLIAM BARTLETT, Merchant.

WILLIAM B. BANISTER, Counsellor at Law, formerly Mem. of Mass. Senate.

CHARLES WHIFFLE, Bookseller.

THOMAS M. CLARK, Merchant.

CONNECTICUT.*Hartford.*

JONATHAN W. EDWARDS, Counsel. at Law.
THOMAS DAY, Sec. of the State, and Reporter of Legal Decisions.

ELIPHALET TERRY, Merchant.

MASON F. COGSWELL, Physician.

JOHN BENNETT, Master of the City Hotel.

JOSEPH TRUMBULL, Pres. of Hartford Bank.

GEORGE BEACH, Cash. of Phoenix Bank.

HENRY HUDSON, Manufacturer.

THOMAS S. WILLIAMS, Counsellor at Law, and formerly Member of Congress.

New Haven.

WILLIAM LEFFINGWELL, Retired Mer.

ELISHA MUNKSON, Magistrate.

SIMEON BALDWIN, formerly Mem. of Cong. subsequently Judge of the Sup. Court, and Mayor of the City.

NOAH WEBSTER, Author.

DYER WHITE, Retired Magistrate.

ABRAHAM BRADLEY, Merchant.

SAMUEL J. HITCHECOCK, Coun. at Law, and Lecturer in the Law School.

ROGER SHERMAN BALDWIN, Coun. at Law.

CHARLES H. POND, High Sheriff.

Norwich.

CALVIN GODDARD, formerly Mem. of Cong. subsequently Judge of the Sup. Court.

JABEZ HUNTINGTON, Merchant.

WILLIAM P. GREENE, President of Thames Bank.

JAMES LANMAN, formerly Senator in Cong. now Judge of Supreme Court.

JEDIDIAH PERKINS, Retired Merchant.

New London.

ELIAS PERKINS, formerly Member of Congress, now Mayor.

EBENEZER LEARNED, Counsellor at Law.

THOMAS W. WILLIAMS, Merchant.

WILLIAM F. BRAINARD, Counsellor at Law.

Fairfield.

ROGER MINOT SHERMAN, Coun. at Law.

Farmington.

MARTIN COWLES, Merchant.

Norfolk.

JOSEPH BATTELL, Merchant.

Middletown.

STEPHEN TITUS HOSMER, Chief Justice of the State.

NEHEMIAH HUBBARD, for many years Pres. of Middletown Bank.

GEORGE W. STANLEY, Counsellor at Law.

RICHARD HUBBARD, Manufacturer.

NEW YORK.*New York City.*

RICHARD VARICK, formerly Mayor of the City, and employed in many trusts of high responsibility.

PETER A. JAY, Counsellor at Law, formerly Recorder of the City.

Col. HENRY RUTGERS, Wealthy Citizen.

ISAAC LAWRENCE, President of the Branch Bank of the U. S.

LYNDE CATLIN, Pres. of Merchant's Bank.

JOHN LOW, Pres. of Union Bank.

JOHN ADAMS, Pres. of Fulton Bank.

JOHN BOLTON, President of Delaware and Hudson Canal Company.

CORNELIUS HEYER, Cash. of Bank of N. Y.

M. ROBINSON, Cashier of the Branch of the U. S. Bank.

JOHN FLEMING, Cash. of Mechanics Bank.

JAMES SWORDS, Pres. of Washington Fire Insurance Company.

JONATHAN LAWRENCE, Pres. of Merchants Fire Insurance Company.

RENSSELAER HAVENS, President of Howard Fire Insurance Company.

ELIAZER LORD, Pres. of Manhattan Fire Insurance Company.

HENRY RANKIN, Pres. of Globe Fire In. Co.

WILLIAM W. WOOLSEY, President of Merchants Exchange.

JOHN PINTARD, Secretary of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

PETER HAWES, Sec. of the Washington Fire Insurance Company.

JONAS PLATT, Counsellor at Law, formerly a Judge of the Supreme Court.

HUGH MAXWELL, District Attorney.

JOHN WATTS, Physician.

GILBERT SMITH, Physician.

JOHN G. WARREN, Exchange Broker.

S. & M. ALLEN, Exchange Brokers.

JOHN ASPINWALL, Exchange Broker.

THEODORE DWIGHT, Editor of Daily Adv.

FRANCIS HALL, Editor of Commercial Adv.

JOHN TAYLOR & SONS, Merchants.

BROWN, BROTHERS & Co. Merchants.

ABRAHAM VAN NEST, Merchant.

DAVID JOHNSON, Merchant.

STEPHEN STORM, Merchant.

THOMAS SKELDING, Merchant.

WILLIAM W. RUSSELL, Merchant.

RUFUS L. LORD, Merchant.

FREDERICK SHELDON, Merchant.

M. VAN SCHAICK, Merchant.

PELATIAH PERIT, Merchant.

McGREGOR, DARLING & Co. Merchants.

E. RIGGS, Merchant.

HUGH AUCHINCLOSS, Merchant.

WILLIAM W. CHESTER, Merchant.

NAJAH TAYLOR, Merchant.

ROBERT BULOID, Merchant.

SILAS HOLMES, & Co. Merchants.

J. A. & W. B. POST, Merchants.

RICHARD I. TUCKER, Merchant.

STUART MOLLAN, Merchant.

GILBERT COUTANT, Merchant.

NATHANIEL RICHARDS, Merchant.

ARTHUR TAPPAN, Merchant.

DAVID ANDREWS, Merchant.

JOEL POST, Merchant.

WILLIAM STERLING, Merchant.

DANIEL BOARDMAN, Merchant.

JAMES MAGEE, Merchant.

ABEEL, DUNSCOMB & Co. Merchants.

PETER LUDLOW, Merchant.

J. W. & R. LEAVITT, Merchants.

H. H. SHIEFFELIN, Merchant.

DAVID L. DODGE, Merchant.

ROBERT JAFFRAY, Merchant.

FITCH, GOODWIN & Co. Merchants.

JOHN D. KEES, Merchant.

JOHN WESTFIELD, Sailmaker.

ANDREW C. WHEELER, Dealer in Provis.

Albany.

WILLIAM JAMES, Merchant.

ABRAHAM VAN VECHTEN, Coun. at Law.

AMBROSE SPENCER, late Chief Justice of the State, elected a Mem. of the 21st Cong.

JOHN WOODWORTH, late Judge of the Supreme Court.

JACOB SUTHERLAND, Judge of the Sup. Ct.

JAMES B. DOUGLASS, Merchant.

SMITH, WILLARD & Co. Merchants.

BARENT BLEECKER, Pres. Bank of Albany.

JOSEPH ALEXANDER, Pres. Com. Bank.

CORNING & NORTON, Merchants.

NATHANIEL DAVIS, Merchant.

WILLIAM A. DUER, Circuit Judge.

JAMES L'AMOUREUX, Judge of the Common Pleas.

HERMANUS BLEECKER, Coun. at Law.

BENJAMIN F. BUTLER, Counsellor at Law.

EDWARD C. DELAVAN, Merchant.

NATHANIEL PITCHER, late Lieut. Governor.

CHARLES E. DUDLEY, Mayor at the time of signing, since elected a Member of the United States Senate.

SAMUEL M. HOPKINS, Counsellor at Law.

JONATHAN EIGHTS, Physician.

FRIEND HUMPHREY, Merchant.

KILIAN K. VAN RENSSELAER, Coun. at Law, formerly Member of Congress.

FRANCIS BLOODGOOD, Counsellor at Law.

JOHN JAMES, Physician.

ABRAHAM KEYSER, Treasurer of the State.

JAMES KING, Counsellor at Law.

ANANIAS PLATT, Farmer.

JOHN VAN NESS YATES, Counsellor at Law, formerly Sec. of the State, now Commissioner of Schools for the State.

Troy.

DERICK LANE, Retired Merchant.

SAMUEL McCOWN, Ret. Mer. now Mayor.

GURDON CORNING, Druggist.

NATHAN DAUCHY, Merchant.

JOHN P. CUSHMAN, Coun. at Law, formerly Member of Congress.

JACOB BISHOP, Merchant.

JOSEPH RUSSELL, Merchant.

MICAH LYMAN, Druggist.

Lansingburgh.

E. W. WALBRIDGE, Counsellor at Law.

ELIJAH JAMES, Merchant.

JAMES REID, Cashier of the Bank of Lansingburgh.

CALVIN BARKER, Post-master.

E. PARMELEE & SON, Brewers and Chandlers.

ROMEO WALBRIDGE, Stage-proprietor.

JOHN FITCH, Master of a Hotel.

Waterford.

JOHN HOUSE, Flour Manufacturer.

Sackett's Harbor.

HIRAM STEELE, Magistrate.

JOHN M. CANFIELD, Col. of the Customs.

Rochester.

M. CHAPIN, First Judge, Monroe county.

H. ELY, Flour Manufacturer.

S. D. CHAPIN, in the Transport. Business.

WILLIAM GROVES, Clerk of the Court.

S. CHIPMAN, Editor.

Jamaica, L. I.

ELIPHALET WICKES, Post-master.

Youngstown.

J. JOHNSON, Lieut. U. S. Army.

Granville.

REUBEN SKINNER, Merchant.

Durham.

WILLIAM BATTELL, Farmer.

Catskill.

ORRIN DAY, Wealthy citizen.

BENJAMIN W. DWIGHT, Merchant.

SAMUEL L. PRYFIELD, Merchant.

Watertown.

LEVI BEEBEE, Manufacturer.

Johnstown.

T. A. STOUTENBURGH, Post-master.

Brooklyn.

JOSHUA SANDS, Merchant.

A. VAN SINDEREN, Ret. Merchant.

PETER W. RADCLIFFE, Coun. at Law.

Bedford.

WILLIAM JAY, Judge of the county.

NEW JERSEY.

Newark.

THEODORE FREELINGHUYSEN, Attor. General at the time of signing, since elected a Member of the U. S. Senate.

JOSEPH C. HORNBLLOWER, Coun. at Law.

WILLIAM PENNINGTON, Coun. at Law.

DAVID D. CRANE, Judge of the Com. Pleas.

JESSE BALDWIN, Merchant.

JOHN WARD, Physician.

JAMES TICHENOR, Manufacturer.

WILLIAM TUTTLE, Printer & Editor.

CHARLES T. SHIPMAN, Manufacturer.

L. H. SMITH, Physician.

LUTHER GOBLE, Manufacturer.

PHILO SANFORD, Merchant.

ROBERT B. CAMPFIELD, Manufacturer.

Elizabethtown.

CALEB HALSTEAD, Mayor.

SHEPARD KOLLOCK, Post-master.

JOHN M. TRUMBULL, Merchant.

STEPHEN P. BRITTAIN, Merchant.

JAMES EARL, Merchant.

D. S. HALSTEAD, Coun. at Law.

FOSTER DAY, Manufacturer.

Princeton.

ROBERT VOORHEES, Mayor.

EBENEZER STOCKTON, Physician.

J. WILSON, Merchant.

Z. MORFORD, Manufacturer.

JOHN C. SCHENCK, Merchant.

Trenton.

CHARLES EWING, Chief Jus. of the State.

ROBERT MCNEELY, Mayor.

DANIEL COLEMAN, Sec. of the State.

WILLIAM L. PRALL, Editor and Clerk of Assembly.

THOMAS I. STRYKER, Merchant.

JOHN MCELWAY, Physician.

Bridgeton.

L. Q. C. ELMER, U. S. District Attorney.

DANIEL ELMER, Counsellor at Law.

Burlington.

WILLIAM ROSSELL, U. S. Dis. Judge.

ABRAHAM BROWN, Surrogate.

SAMUEL J. REED, Clerk of the County.

JOHN W. STEELING.

JOSEPH C. CLARK.

SAMUEL WOOLMAN.

Westfield.

SAMUEL DOWNER, Merchant.

CORRA OSBORN, Physician.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Philadelphia.

ROBERT RALSTON, Merchant.

ALEXANDER HENRY, Retired Merchant.

Gen. WILLIAM DUNCAN, Merchant.

Col. CALEB NORTH, formerly Sheriff of the city.

OTIS AMMIDON, Treasurer and Agent of the Lehigh Coal Company.

SOLOMON ALLEN, Dealer in Exchange.

JOSEPH H. DULLES, Merchant.

AMBROSE WHITE, Merchant.

JOHN STILLE, Merchant.

THOMAS ELMES, Manufacturer.

JOHN W. CLAXTON, Merchant.

JOSEPH MONTGOMERY, Merchant.

Gen. R. PATTERSON, Merchant.

JAMES WILLBANK, Merchant.

ENNION WILLIAMS, Merchant.

JACOB S. WALN, Merchant.

Pittsburgh.

WILLIAM WILKINS, U. S. District Judge, recently elected a Mem. of the 21st Cong.

E. PENTLAND, Recorder of Pittsburgh.

HUGH DAVIS, U. S. Marshal.

ISAAC HARRIS, Merchant.

Butler County.

JOHN PARKER, Judge.

Mercer County.

WALTER OLIVER, High Sheriff.

SAMUEL B. FOSTER, Coun. at Law.

ROBERT GLENN, Farmer.

MARYLAND.

Baltimore.

N. BRICE, Chief Judge of the City Court.

PETER HOFFMAN, Merchant.

ROBERT GILMER, Merchant.

LUKE TIERNAN, Merchant.

JOHN MCKIM, Jun. Merchant.

R. L. COLT, Merchant.

JOSEPH KING, Jun. Merchant.

WILLIAM WILSON & SONS, Importers.

HUGH BOYLE, Merchant.

JAMES COX, Cash. of the Bank of Baltimore.

WILLIAM BIRCKHEAD, Physician.

JAMES H. McCULLOCK, Collector of the Port.

G. BROWN, Merchant.

R. H. DOUGLASS & Co. Merchants.
 THOMAS KELSO, Dealer in Provisions.
 CUSHING & JEWETT, Booksellers.
 CHARLES HOWARD, Counsellor at Law.
 WILLIAM NORRIS & Son, Merchants.
 JOHN GIBSON & Co. Importers.
 WILLIAM H. FREEMAN, Coun. at Law.
 MITCHELL, HENRY & Co. Auctioneers.
 THOMAS TYSON, Flour Manufacturer.
 JAMES BRUNDIGE, Commission Merchant.
 GERARD T. HOPKINS, Merchant.
 WILLIAM BAYLEY, Druggist.
 WILLIAM H. MURRAY, Cash. of Mech. Bank.

ALEXANDRIA, D. C.

COLIN AULD, Wealthy Citizen.
 A. C. CAZENOVE, Merchant.
 JOHN C. VOWELL, Merchant.
 HUMPHREY PEAKE, Collector of the Port.
 THOMAS VOWELL, Pres. of Mechanics Bank.
 WILLIAM GREGORY, Merchant.
 THOMAS SANFORD, Mechanic.
 N. R. FITZHUGH, Merchant.
 C. PAGE, Cashier.
 P. H. HOOF, Cashier.

VIRGINIA.

Fredericksburgh.
 BASIL GORDON, Merchant.
 DANIEL GRINNAN, Merchant.
 ALEXANDER HENDERSON, Merchant.
Petersburgh.
 HUGH NELSON, Merchant.
 JAMES DWIGHT, Merchant.
 WILLIAM M. ATKINSON, Coun. at Law.
 ——— BOSWELL, Merchant.
Morgan County.
 JOHN JONES, High Sheriff.
Prince Edward County.
 RICHARD N. VENABLE, Coun. at Law.
 JAMES D. WOOD, Merchant and Planter.
 HENRY N. WATKINS, Coun. at Law.
 JAMES MADISON, Merchant and Planter.
Greenbrier County.
 A. W. ARBUCKLE, Wealthy Citizen.
Hanover County.
 BENJAMIN POLLARD, Planter.
Greenville County.
 ROBERT DOAKE, Planter.
 SAMUEL FINLEY, Planter.
Albemarle County.
 ANDREW HART, Planter.
Bedford County.
 MICHAEL GRAHAM, Magistrate.
Augusta County.
 JOSEPH COWAN, Merchant.
 JOHN C. SOWERS, Merchant.
 CHARLES A. STUART, Magistrate.
 W. CLARKE, Counsellor at Law.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Gen. CALVIN JONES, of Wake Forest, near Raleigh.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Charleston.

THOMAS NAPIER, Merchant.
 CHARLES EDMONDSTON, Mer. and Factor.
 JOHN LOWDEN, Merchant.
 JOHN HASLET, President of Fire and Marine Insurance Company.
 FREDERICK G. FRASER, Mer. and Factor.
 M. KING, Counsellor at Law.
 KER BOYCE, Merchant and Factor.
 KEATING SIMONS, Pres. of the Bank of S. C.
 JOHN ROBINSON, Merchant.
 JASPER CORNING, Merchant.
 CHARLES A. WEST, Merchant.
 JOHN GADSDEN, U. S. District Attorney.
 THOMAS FLEMMING, Merchant.
 THOMAS CHAPMAN, Merchant.
 JAMES CALDER, Merchant.
 DUKE GOODMAN, Merchant and Factor.
 JOHN KIRKPATRICK, Merchant.
 THOMAS S. GRIMKE, Coun. at Law.
 CHARLES MCINTIRE, Merchant.
 JAMES ADGER, Merchant.
 JAMES BLACK, Merchant.
 CHARLES KERSHAW, Merchant.
 JAMES MITCHELL, Planter.
 CHARLES H. TUNIS, Merchant.
 JOSEPH TYLER, Merchant.
 G. GIBBS, Merchant.
 JOHN STONEY, Merchant.
 WILLIAM BIRNIE, Merchant.
Camden.

WILLIAM BLANDING.
 J. M. DESSAUSURE.

GEORGIA.

Augusta.

THOMAS CUMMING, President of the Branch of Augusta.
 JONATHAN MEIGS, Merchant.
 WILLIAM T. GOULD, Counsellor at Law.
 BREWSTER & PRESCOTT, Wholesale Grocers.
 JOEL CATLIN, Jeweller.

OHIO.

Cincinnati.

ISAAC G. BURNET, Mayor of the City.
 ENOS WOODRUFF, Judge of the Com. Pleas.
 STEPHEN BURROWS, Merchant.
 MORGAN NEVILLE, Counsellor at Law.
 SAMUEL RAMSAY, Physician.
 DAVID E. WADE, Mechanic.
 SAMUEL LOWRY, Merchant.
 HENRY B. FUNK, Mechanic.
Zanesville.
 ROBERT FULTON, Merchant.
 S. P. HERRICK, Counsellor at Law.
 EDWIN PUTNAM, Merchant.
 I. SPANGLER, Counsellor at Law.
 G. BUCKINGHAM, Merchant.

In the preceding list, no names of clergymen appear. It was thought most desirable to select names of gentlemen, engaged in secular pursuits, who are fair representatives of the more active, enterprising, and intelligent portion of our citizens; whose business is most affected by the proper management of the post-office; and who

are competent, both on account of their practical knowledge, and their large acquaintance with human affairs, to form a correct judgment of the subject, in all its bearings. It is not necessary that the selection should be perfect, in order that the great end of it may be answered. Clergymen, as well as laymen, of different religious denominations, are found among the petitioners. That so delightful a union, for so high and holy a purpose, may be apparent, the following sixteen names are published, in regular sequence, without transposition or omission, as they stand together, and form a part of the names upon the petition from New Brunswick, New Jersey. Thus standing together, these names bear a consentaneous and united testimony to the value of the Sabbath, pleasing, it is believed, to the eye of God, and gratifying to the hearts of good men.

Rev. PHILIP MILLEDOLER, D. D. President of Rutgers College, and Professor of Theology in the Seminary of the Reformed Dutch Church.

Rev. JAMES S. CANNON, D. D. Professor of Ecclesiastical History.

Rev. JOHN DE WITT, Professor of Theology.

THEODORE STRONG, Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy.

JOSEPH NELSON, Professor of Languages.

Rev. GEORGE G. COOKMAN, minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rev. JOHN CROES, D. D. Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in New Jersey.

Rev. JAMES R. HARDENBERGH, Pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church.

G. S. WEBB, Pastor of the Baptist Church.

JOSEPH H. JONES, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church.

Rev. DANIEL DODGE, (residing in New Brunswick,) Pastor of the Baptist Church in Piscataway.

R. McCHESNEY,

THOMAS HANCE,

JOSEPH McCHESNEY,

JACOB VAN WINKLE,

Col. JOHN NEILSON, Retired merchant, a revolutionary officer of merit, and one of the most venerable men in the country.

} Judges of the Court of Common Pleas.

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS.

From what has appeared in the preceding pages, it must be manifest to every candid mind, that the petitions to congress, in relation to the transportation and opening of the mail on the Sabbath, did not originate in any transient feeling, nor in any narrow, or local, or personal views; but that they were the result of much reflection, and a solemn conviction of duty, in regard to a subject, which is deemed by the petitioners to be vitally important to their country and to individuals,—to the present generation and to posterity. It is plain, therefore, that the purpose of the petitioners cannot be relinquished, and that no suitable means of attaining it should be neglected.

The reasons, which they assign, are of the gravest character, resting on a sense of obligation to obey an express command of God,—a full persuasion that a disregard of this command will bring down upon our land the displeasure of Heaven,—a deliberate opinion, that the Sabbath is one of the most glorious proofs of the divine beneficence;—that it is eminently calculated to make communities, wherever it is properly observed, virtuous, prosperous and happy; that the loss of this institution would be a calamity so awful, as that any well-grounded apprehension of it might reasonably excite the most gloomy forebodings; that the present regulations of the post-office tend strongly toward the abolition of the Sabbath; that they are, therefore, in the

highest sense, adverse to the public good ; that, as the preservation of moral integrity, or a sense of responsibility to God, extensively among the people, is confessedly essential to the continuance of a republican government,—every enlightened patriot, as well as every true Christian, must cherish the institutions of religion, as the great means of perpetuating our free government ; that the laws of the several States are disregarded, and the religious privileges of the people invaded, by the present regulations of the post-office ; and that the inconvenience of having the mails at rest and the post-offices closed on the Sabbath, is very small, compared with the great and alarming evils of a contrary course.

All these topics, and many others of a kindred nature, are urged by the petitioners with great sincerity and earnestness. Though some misapprehension may have existed, as to the motives and the design of the petitioners, no candid man, who peruses the foregoing pages, can doubt, whether the motives assigned are not the true and operative motives,—and the only motives generally entertained by the numerous writers, as well as by the signers, of the memorials. This being admitted, no statesman of enlarged and comprehensive views can deny, that the subject of these memorials is as well worthy of solemn consideration, as any subject which has ever been presented to the assembled representatives of the nation.

It has been asserted, that all the petitions proceeded from one pen ;—a striking instance of the carelessness, with which assertions are frequently made, by persons who know nothing about the subject on which they write. The preceding quotations are made from about *ninety original petitions* ; and there were, in fact, considerably more than a hundred petitions of this character ; all uniting in the same request, and speaking the voice of conscientious and reflecting citizens from Vermont to Alabama, and from Maine to the banks of the Mississippi. Besides the petitions, many letters were written, in corroboration of them, to the postmaster general, and to members of congress. The fact that God, in his holy providence, brought forth so loud an expression of public sentiment, is hailed with joy by numerous friends of their country and of mankind. It is acknowledged with tears in the closet, and around the domestic altar, and is recognized as a blessed token that the **LORD OF THE SABBATH** will not give up this holy day to desecration and contempt.

The only objections, which have appeared to weigh in the minds of considerate men, against granting the prayer of the memorialists, are these two ; viz. that the delivery of letters on the Sabbath is promotive of *commercial prosperity* ; and that the transportation of the mail, especially on the great roads, is necessary to prevent the *sending of expresses*, on the Sabbath, by which that day would be violated, and advantage would be taken of recent commercial intelligence, in such a manner as to injure the honest merchant.

By a little attention it may be seen, that the importance of these objections is vastly over-rated.

As to the *first*, the petition of merchants of Baltimore, (which was written, as the compiler has reason to believe, by one of the most intelligent, experienced, and honorable merchants in the United States, and which is expressed with great candor and good sense,) regards

the inconveniences, which would result from the regulations prayed for, as being "*very inconsiderable.*"

Again, the example of London is better than a volume of arguments. Some of the most active merchants of that metropolis have declared it to be a *great relief* to have one day in seven, on which the laborious and exhausting process of reading and answering letters is necessarily intermitted.

As to the *second objection*, it has been strangely magnified for want of attention to facts. How often is intelligence received, which would warrant the expense of sending expresses? Will any considerate merchant say, that, for the last ten years, intelligence of this kind has been received fourteen times a year, on an average? The compiler does not believe it has been received seven times a year. But take fourteen as the number. As intelligence of this kind would not be more likely to arrive on or near the Sabbath, than on or near any other day, the probability is, that there would be no inducement to send expresses on more than two Sabbaths, in a year, on an average. Shall the mails be carried, in every part of the Union, *fifty two Sabbaths* in the year, as the only expedient to prevent expresses being sent, on a few great roads, *two Sabbaths* in a year?

Again, expresses may easily be sent, as the mails now go, *every day in the year*, so as frequently to anticipate the mail, in all our great cities, from ten hours to fifty hours, according to the distance of the cities from each other: and yet how seldom are expresses sent?

If important commercial intelligence should reach New York, on Monday, at 4 o'clock, P. M., it might easily be sent to Boston, so as to arrive from 20 to 24 hours before the steam-boat mail, which would leave New York on Tuesday afternoon, and 26 or 27 hours before the land mail of Tuesday morning. The same intelligence might be sent to Philadelphia, so as to anticipate the steam-boat and land mail more than 12 hours, giving to the New York speculator all the business hours of Tuesday, for the practice of his skill, in the markets of Philadelphia. He might, of course, greatly distance the mail at Baltimore, and onward to the south-west.

Intelligence is very apt to arrive at New York from abroad, in the morning, or in the forenoon. In all these cases, the mail might be distanced in every direction; and this may be done every day in the year. Yet, how very seldom are expresses sent?

This subject might be set in a still stronger light, by an examination of more particulars; but the limits of these pages do not allow it.

In conclusion, the people of the United States have it in their power to secure their religious freedom, their civil institutions, and their national prosperity, to themselves and to future ages, if they will sanctify the Sabbath, and thus enjoy all its benign, restraining, and enlightening influences; but if they unwisely disregard the voice of experience and the voice of God, it may be said of them, by the SUPREME LAWGIVER, as it was said of the Jewish commonwealth; *But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow THE SABBATH DAY, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day; then I will kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched.*

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